CARAVAN KIDD

VOLUME 1

キャラバン・キッド

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Dark Horse Comics®

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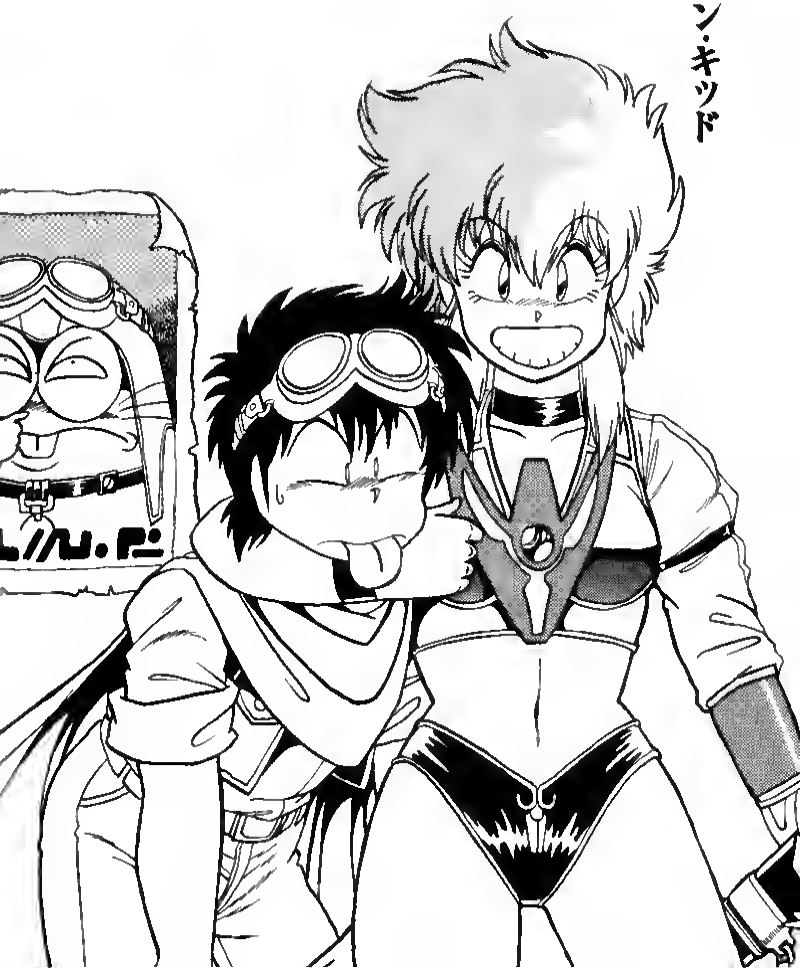
VOLUME 3

キャラバン・キッド



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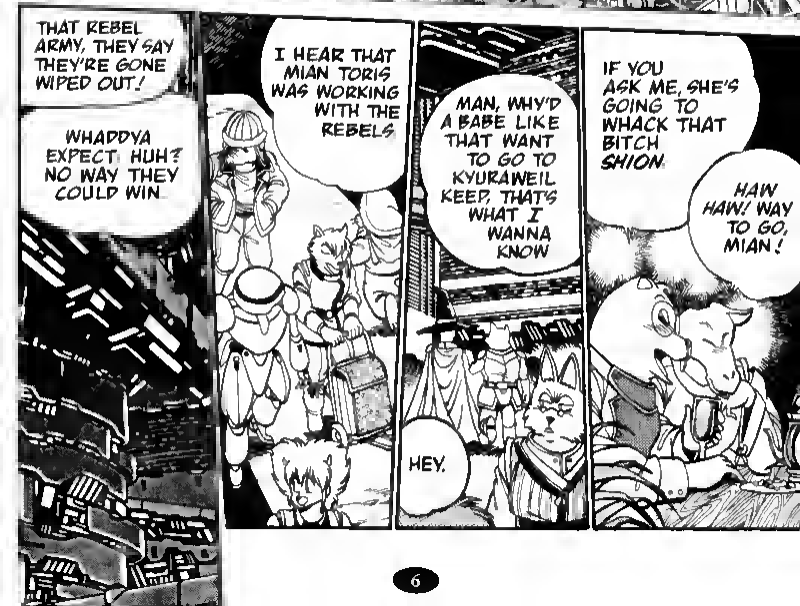
SO YOU SAY
YOU WANT A
REVOLUTION...

HEY, DID YOU HEAR? MIAN TORIS IS SOMEWHERE HERE IN KAWACHI!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY. WELL WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO KYURAWEIL KEEP, RIGHT?


THAT REBEL ARMY, THEY SAY THEY'RE GONE WIPED OUT!
WHADDYA EXPECT, HUH? NO WAY THEY COULD WIN.
I HEAR THAT MIAN TORIS WAS WORKING WITH THE REBELS.
MAN, WHY'D A BABE LIKE THAT WANT TO GO TO KYURAWEIL KEEP. THAT'S WHAT I WANNA KNOW.
HEY.
IF YOU ASK ME, SHE'S GOING TO WHACK THAT BITCH SHION.
HAW HAW! WAY TO GO, MIAN!

YOU THERE!
?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANTED TO SAY THAT?
TIME FOR A LITTLE CHAT, GUYS
OH, GOD... THE COPS...
WE WERE J-JUST MAKIN' A LITTLE JOKE, OFFICERS...
NO, PLEASE... DON'T!
KRASH
HAIL, SHION! LONG LIVE THE EMPRESS!!
THE REBEL INSURGENCY HAS HAD NO DISCERNIBLE EFFECT ON SOCIAL COHESION WITHIN THE EMPIRE.
BUT THAT WAS ONLY BECAUSE WE GAVE THEM NO TIME TO FAN A GENERAL REVOLT.
THE PROBLEM IS MIAN TORIS!
MANY CITIZENS SEEM TO BE PLACING ALL THEIR HOPE IN HER.
AND THOSE HOPES KEEP RISING THE CLOSER SHE GETS TO KYURAWEIL KEEP!
I AGREE COMPLETELY, GENERAL MANSTEIN.
WE'RE ALREADY ROOTING OUT DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.
I'VE ORDERED THE OCCUPATION GARRISON REINFORCED

HMM...
SO OUR EMPRESS HAS A WEAKNESS FOR MIAN TORIS.
BUT I, FIELD GENERAL MANSTEIN, DO NOT!
:SIGHHH:
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? WE'RE PRACTICALLY THERE, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW, I KNOW BUT TAXES THIS YEAR, OH MAN...
SURE, I LOVE BEING A MONEY-GRUBBING SLEAZE BALL, BUT SOMETIMES I ASK MYSELF--BABO, IS THIS WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?
I WASN'T ASKING YOU!!
IS IT KHADA, MIAN? IS THAT IT?
IT'S NOTHING DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME

BUT IT IS SOMETHING. THIS AWFUL BURDEN...
ME A SYMBOL, KHADA? IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT I'LL DO AT KYURAWEIL KEEP..
UH... MIAN?
.....

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?!
W-WE JUST... ARE YOU. .
ARE YOU MIAN TORIS?! THE REAL MIAN TORIS?!
YEAH SO WHAT ?
WAHOO!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?! IT'S HER! THE REAL MIAN!!
WE'RE ALL BEHIND YOU, MIAN!
GO MIAN GO! OUR HERO!
NOW JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE HERE! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN?!
YOU'RE GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP, RIGHT?
YOU'RE OUR HOPE! OUR SHINING STAR!
THE HELL I AM !!
I DON'T WANT ANY OF THIS!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE !

WATARU, WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
B-BUT MIAN!
MIAN TORIS! OH, PLEASE WAIT FOR US, MIAN!
TELL US WHAT TO DO! MIANNN!
WELL, IF THAT DON'T BEAT ALL.
IT'S QUEER WHAT FOLK'LL WASTE THEIR ENERGY ON, AND NOT A D.D. IN IT FOR ANYONE.
AROUND HERE, YOU SAY?!
YEAH, BUT I DON'T SEE HER NOW.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAMNED RUMOR.
SINCE WHEN DO WANTED CRIMINALS STROLL DOWN MAIN STREET?
YEAH. BUT IT'S A ROTTEN SHAME. OUR RATINGS'D GO THROUGH THE ROOF.
WE GET THAT BABE ON THE SHOW, WE CLEAR A 50 SHARE EASY.
IF WE COULD EVEN TALK HER INTO IT.
AH, YOU GENTS OVER THERE. HOLD ON ONE GOLD-PLATED SECOND!

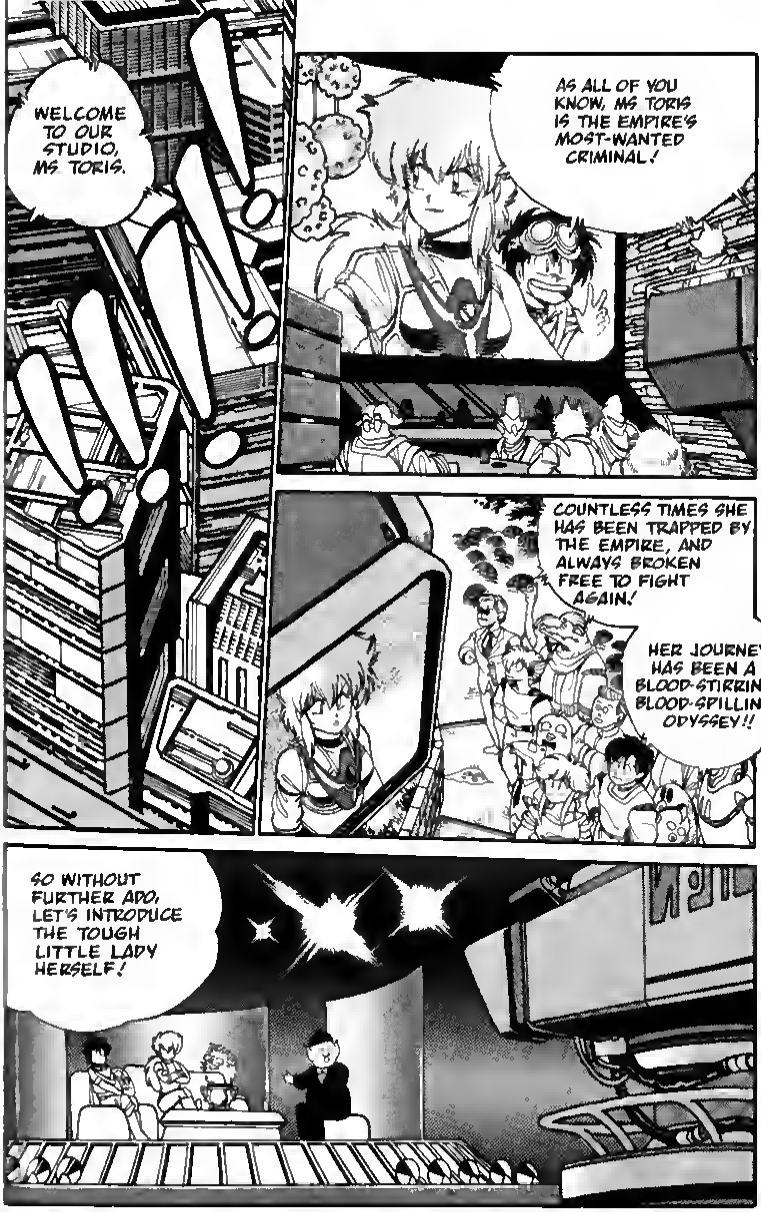
TALK LIKE THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH HER MANAGER. AND THAT'S ME, BABO, SEE?!
THERE'S A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY, GENTS FOR EVERYTHING.
MANAGER?! FOR MIAN TORIS?!
THEN... THEN YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?!
YOU BET I DO, BABY--IT'S MY JOB. IT'S A BIG PLANET, BUT THERE AIN'T NO ONE ON IT CAN BRING YOU THE ONE-AND-ONLY MIAN TORIS BUT ME!
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF ME AND MY FRIEND ARE WITH PANERA-MONERA TELEVISION
WE'D BE INTERESTED, EXTREMELY INTERESTED, IN HAVING MS TORIS ON OUR SHOW.
THANK YOU.
BUT YOU'RE ASKIN' A LOT, BOYS, ONE HELLUVA LOT!
LITTLE LADY'S GOT A PRICE ON HER HEAD WE'D NEED SUBSTANTIAL GUARANTEES
OF COURSE, WE COULD ARRANGE CERTAIN PAYMENTS-- PERHAPS THIS MUCH...?
.....
NICE TALKIN' TO YA, BOYS...
W-WAIT! WE CAN DOUBLE THAT! NO, TRIPLE IT! A BLANK CHECK, SIR! NAME YOUR OWN FEES.. !!

REMEMBER, WATARU! YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TV!
I KNOW I MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE
OH, MAN, ARE WE REALLY GOING THROUGH WITH THIS?
NO WAY YOU WIMP OUT NOW, BOY!
HM?
BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TRY PERSUASION?
WITH HER? NOW SHH!
FORGIVE ME!
FLOOP
MMPH?
KAWHOK
GNK!

YOU-- ARE YOU CRAZY ?!?!?
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT! SHE'S BUILT TO LAST.
I SEE NUTTINK, I KNOW NUTTINK!
FEETS DON'T FAIL US NOW!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

NO WAY AM I GOING ON TELEVISION
PLEASE, PLEASE RECONSIDER, MS. TORIS! I PROMISE WE'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING? DO YOU REALLY THINK THE EMPIRE'LL SIT BY WITH ME ON THE AIR?
WE UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, COMPLETELY. OUR STATION'S ANTI-EMPIRE POLICY PAYS OFF BIG TIME IN THE RATINGS DEPARTMENT
WE'VE GOT THE FIRM SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.
WHY, JUST LAST WEEK WE INTERVIEWED THAT SUPER ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT SINGER, LIM SWEET. THE AUDIENCE LOVED HER! AND THE EMPIRE DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER.
AND DON'T FORGET TO BUY MY NEW ALBUM, "ALTERED SWEET"!
LIM, YOU GOT NO SHAME.
.....
OKAY--I GET TO SAY ANYTHING I WANT, RIGHT?
OH, ABSOLUTELY, BABY! BE AS RADICAL AS YOU WANT! THE BADDER THE BETTER!

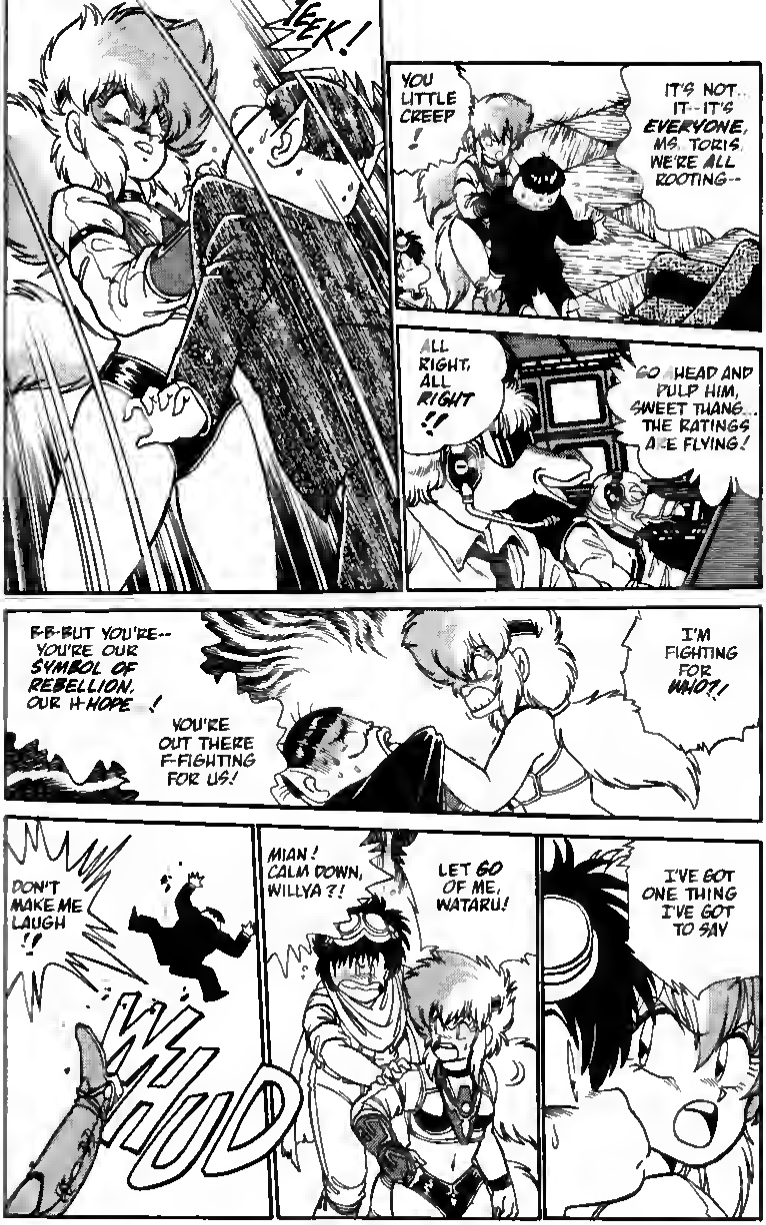
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE, AND WELCOME TO PANERA-MONERA! TODAY WE'RE EXTENDING OUR BROADCAST FOR A ONE HOUR SPECIAL PROGRAM
OUR TOPIC TONIGHT, "MY WAR ON THE EMPIRE"
AND NOW LET'S MEET TONIGHT'S VERY SPECIAL GUEST!
A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR... MIAN TORIS!!
Ww...


WELCOME TO OUR STUDIO, MS TORIS.
AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, MS TORIS IS THE EMPIRE'S MOST-WANTED CRIMINAL!
COUNTLESS TIMES SHE HAS BEEN TRAPPED BY THE EMPIRE, AND ALWAYS BROKEN FREE TO FIGHT AGAIN!
HER JOURNEY HAS BEEN A BLOOD-STIRRING, BLOOD-SPILLING ODYSSEY!!
SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, LET'S INTRODUCE THE TOUGH LITTLE LADY HERSELF!

BUT FIRST, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOUR TWO COMPANIONS...?
WHAT, THOSE TWO?
YO, I'M MIAN'S MANAGER, BABO, THAT'S BA-B-O. SEND CASH, 1-900-555-BABO! THIS IS MY SECRETARY, WATARU--
THE HELL I AM!!
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF WITLESS MINIONS.
WHAAAT-?!
MS. TORIS, YOU'RE THE MOST-WANTED WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ALL THAT ATTENTION?
HEY, I DIDN'T ASK THOSE EMPIRE GOON SQUADS TO CHASE ME.
GUESS THEY JUST DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO
FOR EXAMPLE?!
LIKE, MAYBE THEY DON'T LIKE MY GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP
GOOD LORD! YOU MEAN THE RUMORS ARE TRUE?! YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO KYURAWEIL KEEP?!
AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU GET THERE, MS TORIS?!

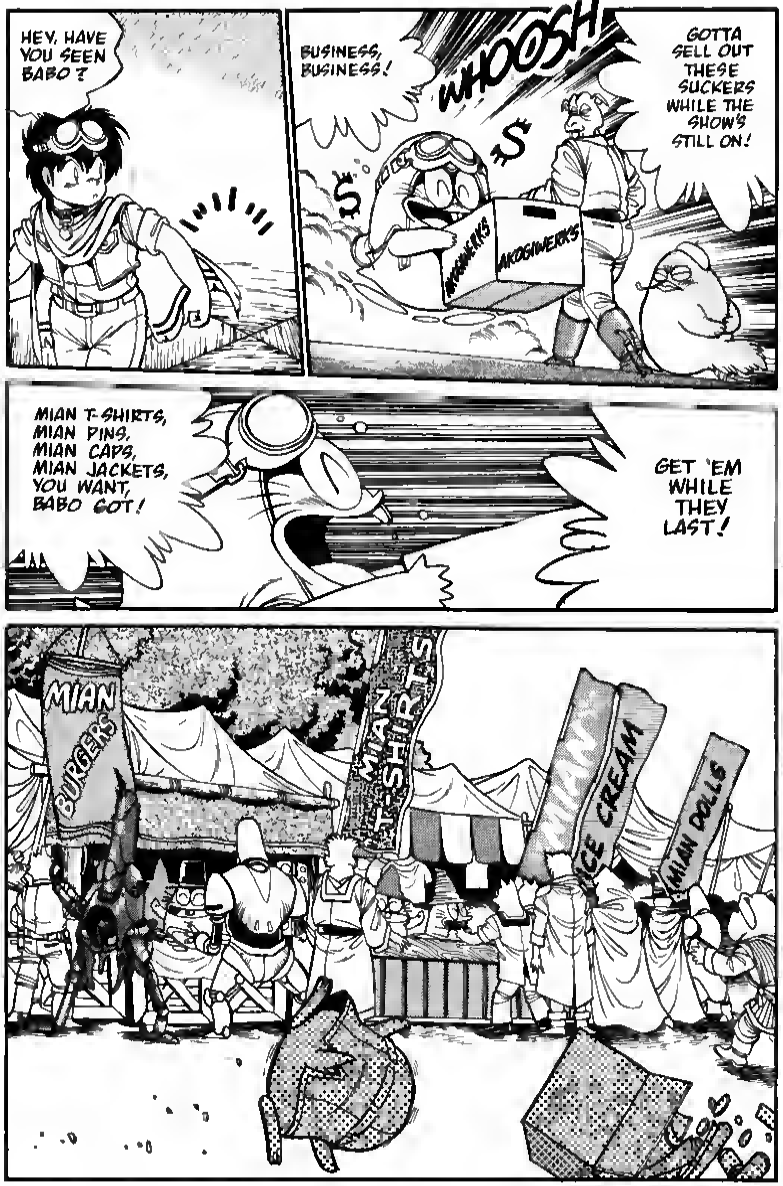
HEY, TUNE IN NEXT WEEK AND FIND OUT.
WAY TO GO, BABE, WAY TO GO!!
THE RATINGS ARE GONNA GO THROUGH THE ROOF
C'MON, SPOCKO-- ASK SOME REAL QUESTIONS!
THAT'S THE SORT OF ANSWER WE LIKE TO HEAR, MS TORIS!
NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, YOU AND THE REBEL ARMY--
ME AND THE REBELS? STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT, YOU KNOW.
THEY WERE JUST GOING MY WAY, SEE? NOTHING MORE.

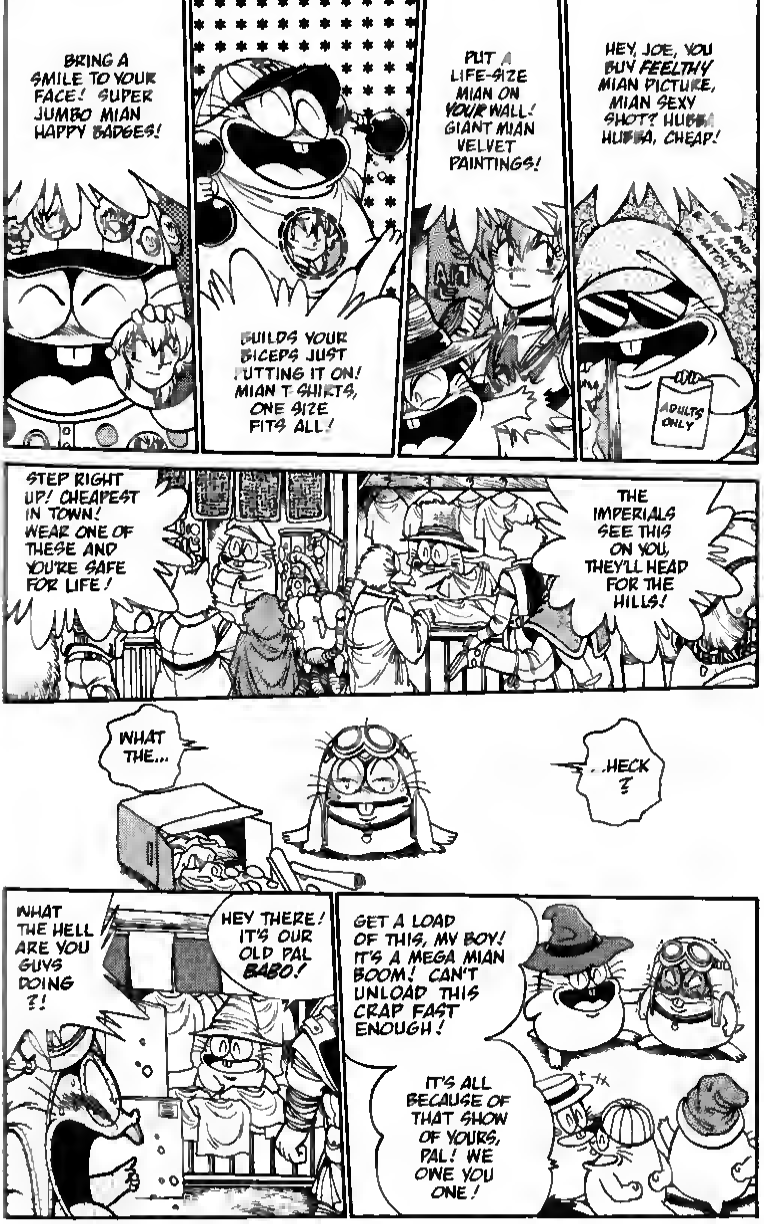
BAM
GET HER OFF THE AIR!!
THIS IS A DAMNED ANTI-IMPERIAL INSURRECTION!
DO WHATEVER IT TAKES! I WANT THAT STATION SHUT DOWN!!
MOBILIZE THE URBAN STRIKE TEAM, CALL IN THE ARMY GARRISON! I WANT THAT WOMAN TAKEN, DEAD OR ALIVE!
WELL, WELL...
I JUST WANT TO SAY, ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR VIEWERS TODAY, THAT WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO DO YOUR BEST AT KYURAWEIL KEEP.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WELL, ER, I MEAN, NOW THAT THE REBEL ARMY HAS BEEN WIPED OUT...
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON LEFT WE CAN COUNT ON!
HEH HEH HEH?

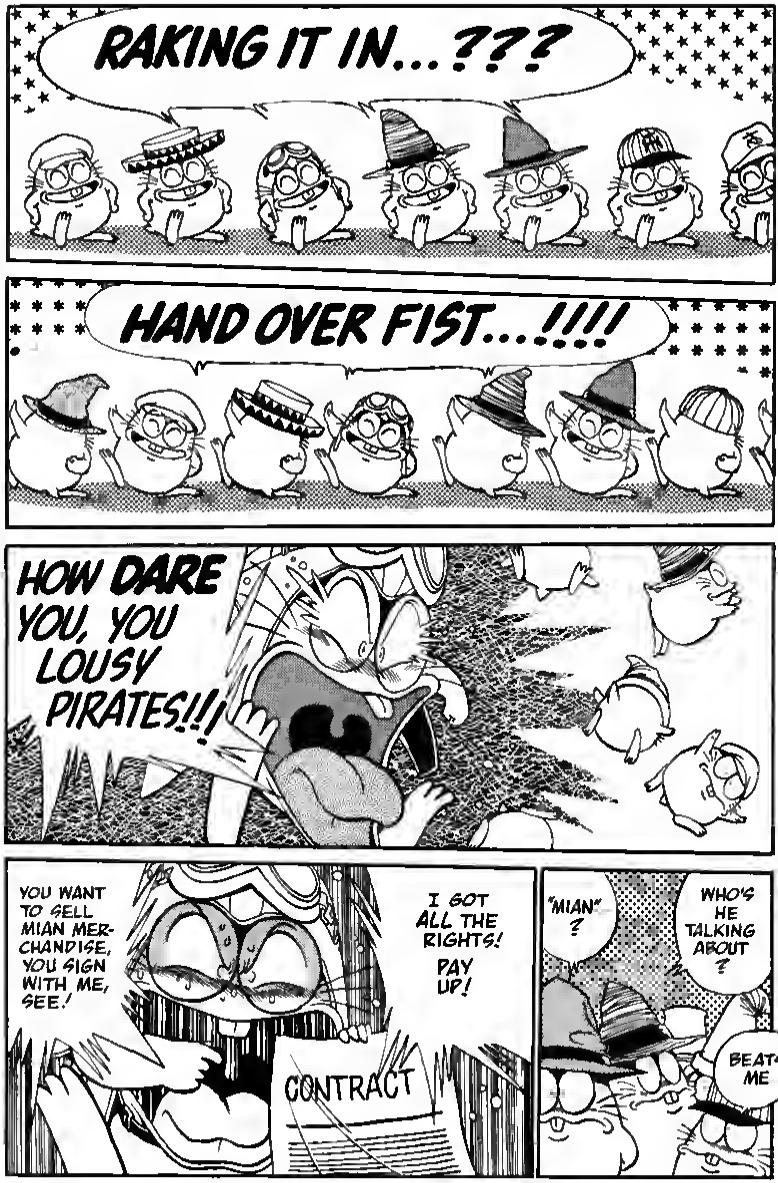

SEK!
YOU LITTLE CREEP!
IT'S NOT.. IT--IT'S EVERYONE, MS. TORI. WE'RE ALL ROOTING--
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!!
GO AHEAD AND PULP HIM, SWEET THANG... THE RATINGS ARE FLYING!
F-F-BUT YOU'RE-- YOU'RE OUR SYMBOL OF REBELLION, OUR H-HOPE!
YOU'RE OUT THERE F-FIGHTING FOR US!
I'M FIGHTING FOR WHO?!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!
WHUD
MIAN! CALM DOWN, WILLYA?!
LET GO OF ME, WATARU!
I'VE GOT ONE THING I'VE GOT TO SAY

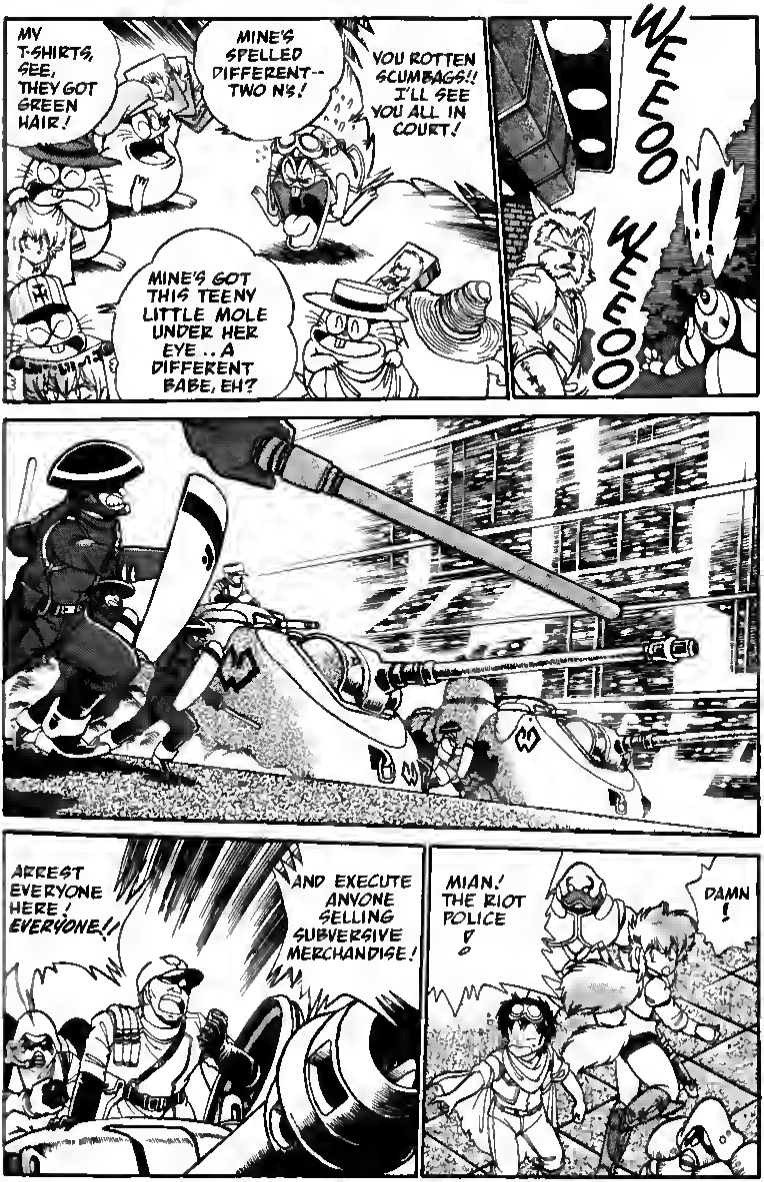
NOW LISTEN UP, ALL YOU BLOCKHEADS WATCHING THIS SHOW!
WHAT KIND OF WHINING, SNIVELLING BABIES ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!
SO YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME OR SOME REBEL ARMY TO SAVE YOUR LOUSY BUTTS? IT'S NOT THAT EASY, SWEETHEARTS!
STOP WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK! STOP IT RIGHT NOW!
THIS BATTLE IS YOUR BATTLE, NOT MINE!
MIAN, MY HERO!!
YOU GUYS GOT A BEEF WITH THE EMPIRE? THEN SHOUT IT OUT!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD CITIZENS IF YOU JUST LIE LOW AND KEEP YOUR YAPS SHUT?

YEAH!
SHE'S RIGHT.
YEAH!
IT'S TRUE..
IT'S YOUR DESTINY! SEIZE IT! MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YEAH!!!
FIGHT YOUR OWN BATTLES!
HUH?
OKAY, WATARU, WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
THE EMPIRE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE


HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN BABO?
BUSINESS, BUSINESS!
WHOOSH
GOTTA SELL OUT THESE SUCKERS WHILE THE SHOW'S STILL ON!
AKOGWEIRS
MIAN T-SHIRTS, MIAN PINS, MIAN CAPS, MIAN JACKETS, YOU WANT, BABO GOT!
GET 'EM WHILE THEY LAST!
MIAN BURGERS
MIAN T-SHIRTS
MIAN ICE CREAM
MIAN DOLLS


BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE! SUPER JUMBO MIAN HAPPY BADGES!
BUILDS YOUR BICEPS JUST PUTTING IT ON! MIAN T SHIRTS, ONE SIZE FITS ALL!
PUT A LIFE-SIZE MIAN ON YOUR WALL! GIANT MIAN VELVET PAINTINGS!
HEY, JOE, YOU BUY FEELTHY MIAN PICTURE, MIAN SEXY SHOT? HUBBA HUBBA, CHEAP!
AND I NOT WATCH!
ADULTS ONLY
STEP RIGHT UP! CHEAPEST IN TOWN! WEAR ONE OF THESE AND YOU'RE SAFE FOR LIFE!
THE IMPERIALS SEE THIS ON YOU, THEY'LL HEAD FOR THE HILLS!
WHAT THE...
..HECK ?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING ?!
HEY THERE! IT'S OUR OLD PAL BABO!
GET A LOAD OF THIS, MY BOY! IT'S A MEGA MIAN BOOM! CAN'T UNLOAD THIS CRAP FAST ENOUGH!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT SHOW OF YOURS, PAL! WE OWE YOU ONE!

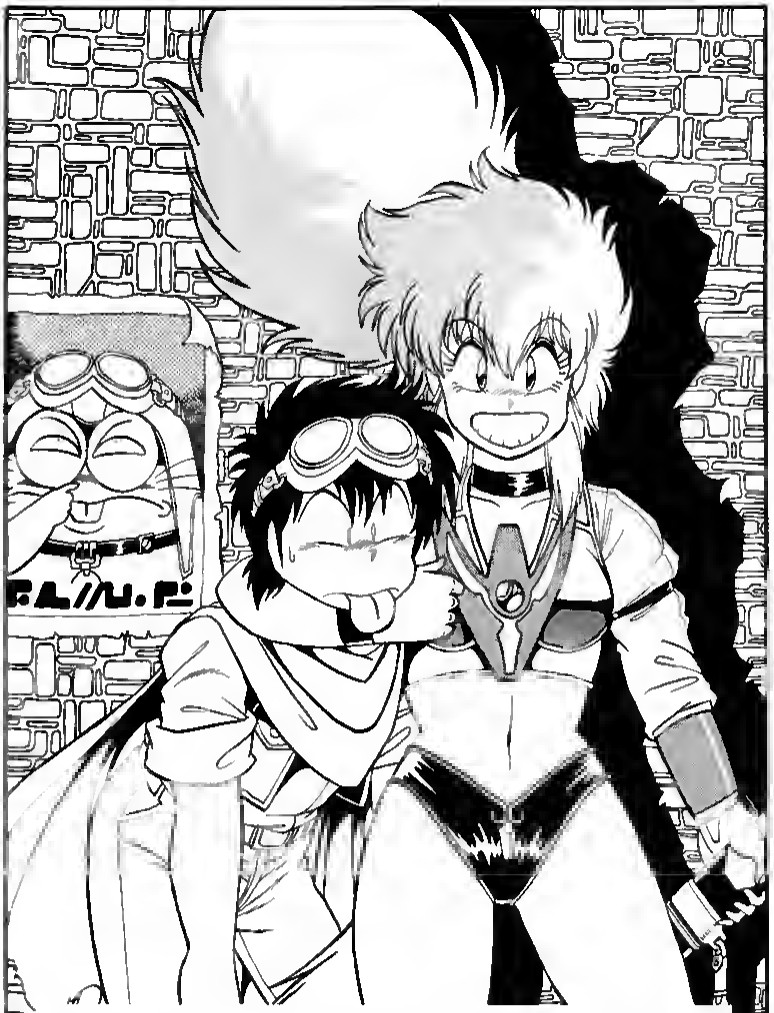

RAKING IT IN...???
HAND OVER FIST...!!!!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU LOUSY PIRATES!!!
YOU WANT TO SELL MIAN MERCHANDISE, YOU SIGN WITH ME, SEE!
I GOT ALL THE RIGHTS! PAY UP!
CONTRACT
"MIAN"?
WHO'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
BEATS ME


MY T-SHIRTS, SEE, THEY GOT GREEN HAIR!
MINE'S SPELLED DIFFERENT-- TWO N'S!
YOU ROTTEN SCUMBAGS!! I'LL SEE YOU ALL IN COURT!
MINE'S GOT THIS TEENY LITTLE MOLE UNDER HER EYE.. A DIFFERENT BABE, EH?
WEEOO WEEOO
!!
ARREST EVERYONE HERE! EVERYONE!!
AND EXECUTE ANYONE SELLING SUBVERSIVE MERCHANDISE!
MIAN! THE RIOT POLICE
DAMN!

THERE SHE IS!
GET HER!!
TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
GET ME OUTTA HERE!
STOP SELLING THOSE, YOU SWINE!
YOW!! MIAN, HELLLP!
CITIZENS! GOOD CITIZENS! DISPERSE QUIETLY AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMES!
GATHERINGS ARE PROHIBITED BY SPECIAL CITY ORDINANCE!
YAARGH! AIIE!!
GOOD CITIZENS..!
RMBR
EH?
RMBRMBRMB

AAH!!!
MS MIAN! GET AWAY WHILE YOU CAN!
THANKS, GUYS!
S-STOP! HALT! YOWCH!
AAHEW. WHAT AN EXHAUSTING PANEL.

WHAT ?! A RIOT ?!
TRIGGERED BY MIAN TORIS?!
EXCELLENT! JUST WHAT I WANTED, YOU BITCH!
THIS MAKES EVERYTHING EASY!
KILL! KILL!
YOU WANT TO SELL MIAN GOODS, YOU SELL 'EM OVER MY DEAD BODY!
YOU CHEAP MISER! YOU WON'T GET A SINGLE DD OUTTA ME! NEVER!
MIAN, YOU WERE INCREDIBLE! I GOT GOOSEBUMPS ALL OVER!
OH MY GOD. I GAVE A WHOLE SPEECH! MAYBE KHADA WAS RIGHT ABOUT ME..



OPERATION EXTERMINATION

(OR THE GENERAL WHO KNEW TOO MUCH)

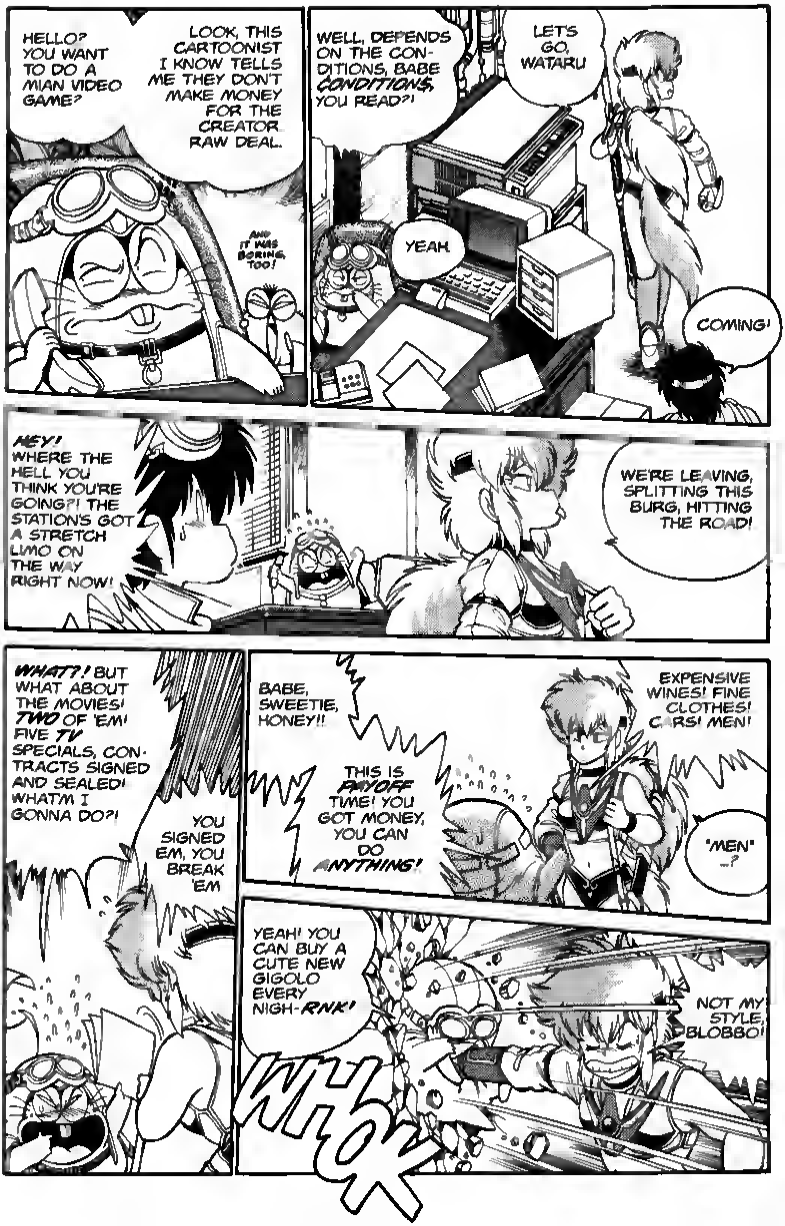
MANSTEIN!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SENT A SPECIAL ASSASSINATION TEAM TO ELIMINATE MIAN TORIS?!
I DID INDEED THEY SHOULD BE REACHING KAWACHI RIGHT ABOUT NOW
IMPUDENT SWINE! DID YOU GO THROUGH CHANNELS?! DID YOU GET APPROVAL?
AND WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL SECURITY DO, KESSELRING?

IT'S MY DUTY TO ELIMINATE THREATS TO THE EMPIRE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING, YOU FOOL!
YOUR ACTIONS DEFY THE WILL OF THE EMPRESS! EMPRESS SHION ORDERED US TO LEAVE MIAN TORIS ALONE UNTIL SHE ENTERS THE CAPITAL!
KESSELRING...
YOU DODDERING OLD FOOL! DO YOU REALIZE THE STATE THE EMPIRE IS IN?!!
WHAT IS THE EMPRESS THINKING, KESSELRING?! WE'RE IN THE GREATEST CRISIS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF HELGEBARD!
HAVE YOU REPORTED THAT TO THE EMPRESS?! EH?! HAVE YOU?!
WHA--?

WE HAVE REPORTS OF RIOTS, STRIKES, AND SABOTAGE THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE EMPIRE!
THE REBELLION IS SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE FROM THE CITIES INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MIAN TORIS' HER INFLUENCE ALONE!
LET ME TAKE HER OUT, KESSELRING! IF I DO...
THE FIRES OF REVOLT WILL FLICKER OUT IN AN INSTANT!
DO YOU THINK I NEED A YOUNG PUP LIKE YOU TO TELL ME THAT, MANSTEIN?!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS TO GET OFF THEIR COLLECTIVE BUTT, KESSELRING.
I'M INTERESTED IN RESULTS, BY WHATEVER MEANS!
IT WON'T WORK, MANSTEIN!
THE PROBLEM HERE IS YOUR UNAUTHORIZED ACTION!
PULL BACK YOUR MEN IMMEDIATELY!

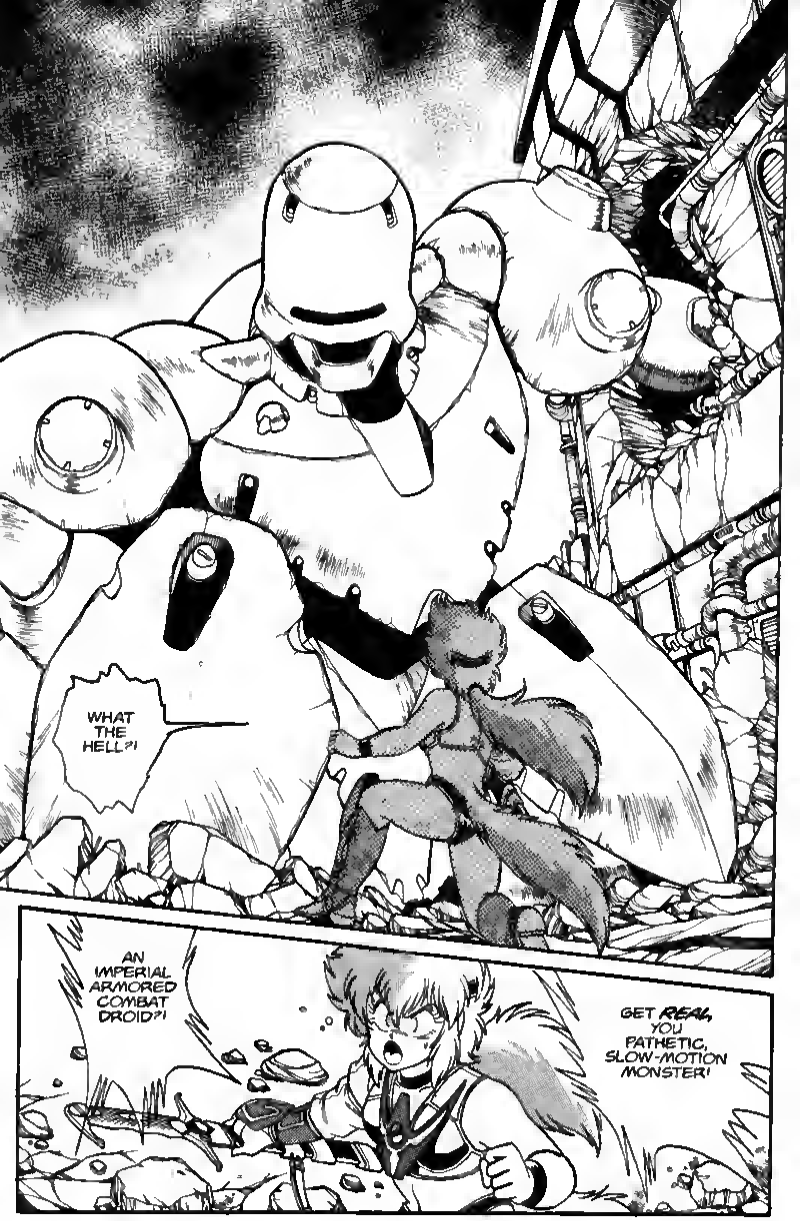
TRY TO STOP ME, KESSELRING... IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS.
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE AFTER, MANSTEIN...?
YOU WANT MY POST?
AS CHIEF OF STAFF?! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN JOINING YOU BOOTLICKERS, KESSELRING.
WHY YOU--!!
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT, KESSELRING I DON'T LIKE SEEING ONE LITTLE BITCH RUN OUR EMPIRE INTO THE GROUND!

GEE, THE NEWS SAYS THERE RE RIOTS BREAKING OUT ALL OVER.
WHAT A MESS...
WHATCHA GONNA DO?
BUT I GUESS WE CAN ALWAYS USE IT FOR COVER TO BREAK INTO [illegible] KEEP.
RRI INNGG
"FOR LOVE OF MONEY"
BABO
YO, OPRAH, BABY? YEAH, THIS IS AKOGI PRODUCTIONS.
YOU WANT MIAN? LIVE?
IT'S GONNA HAVETA BE AFTER NINE, BABE. YEAH, AND FOR A PRICE, SWEETHEART. SCHEDULE'S PACKED, SEE?
YOU WANT SOME MIAN MERCHANDISE FOR GIVEAWAYS?
HEY, THAT'S FOR THE CONTRACT DETAILS THEN, YOU GOT ME?

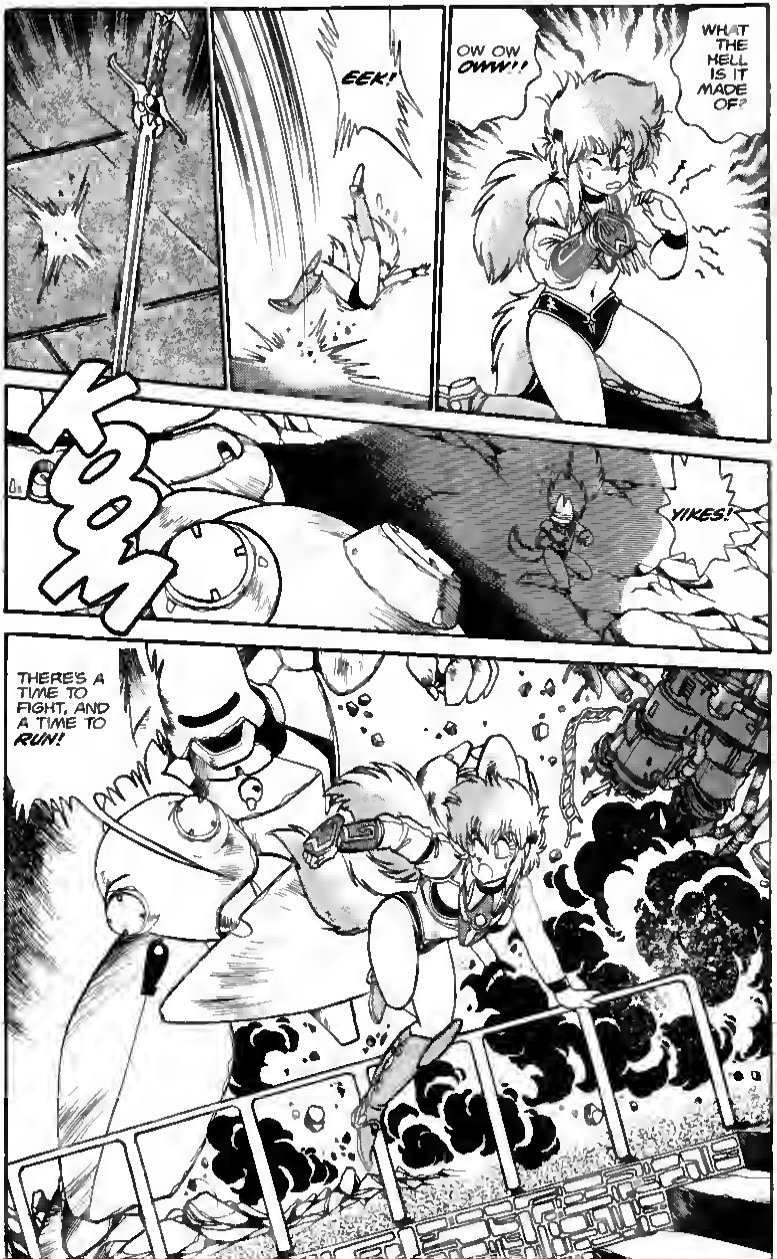

HELLO? YOU WANT TO DO A MIAN VIDEO GAME?
LOOK, THIS CARTOONIST I KNOW TELLS ME THEY DON'T MAKE MONEY FOR THE CREATOR RAW DEAL.
AND IT WAS BORING, TOO!
WELL, DEPENDS ON THE CONDITIONS, BABE CONDITIONS, YOU READ?!
LET'S GO, WATARU
YEAH.
COMING!
HEY! WHERE THE HELL YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?! THE STATION'S GOT A STRETCH LIMO ON THE WAY RIGHT NOW!
WE'RE LEAVING, SPLITTING THIS BURG, HITTING THE ROAD!
WHAT?! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MOVIES! TWO OF 'EM! FIVE TV SPECIALS, CONTRACTS SIGNED AND SEALED! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!
YOU SIGNED 'EM, YOU BREAK 'EM
BABE, SWEETIE, HONEY!!
THIS IS PAYOFF TIME! YOU GOT MONEY, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
EXPENSIVE WINES! FINE CLOTHES! CARS! MEN!
'MEN' ...?
YEAH! YOU CAN BUY A CUTE NEW GIGOLO EVERY NIGH-RNK!
NOT MY STYLE, BLOBBO!
WHOK

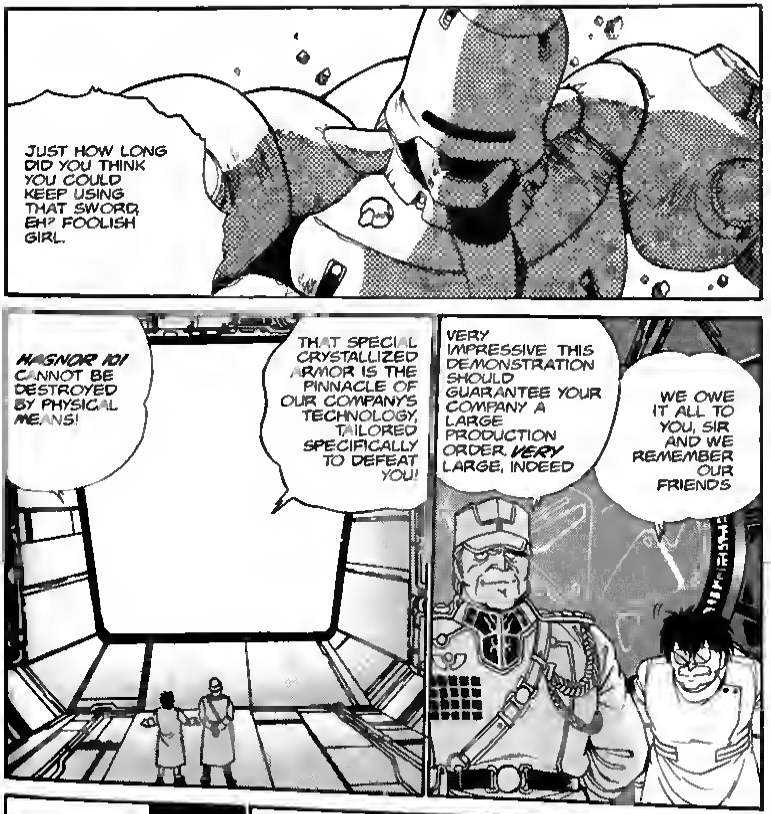
SINCE WHEN DID STUDIOS START HIRING--
OHMIGOD! IT'S THE GUYS FROM THE STUDIO! GET YOUR MAKEUP ON!
WHKOOM
WHAT'S THAT?
WHKOOM
WHKOOM
WHKRAKK

RUN FOR IT!!
SKRSS
GULK!
WHRAM
YEEP!

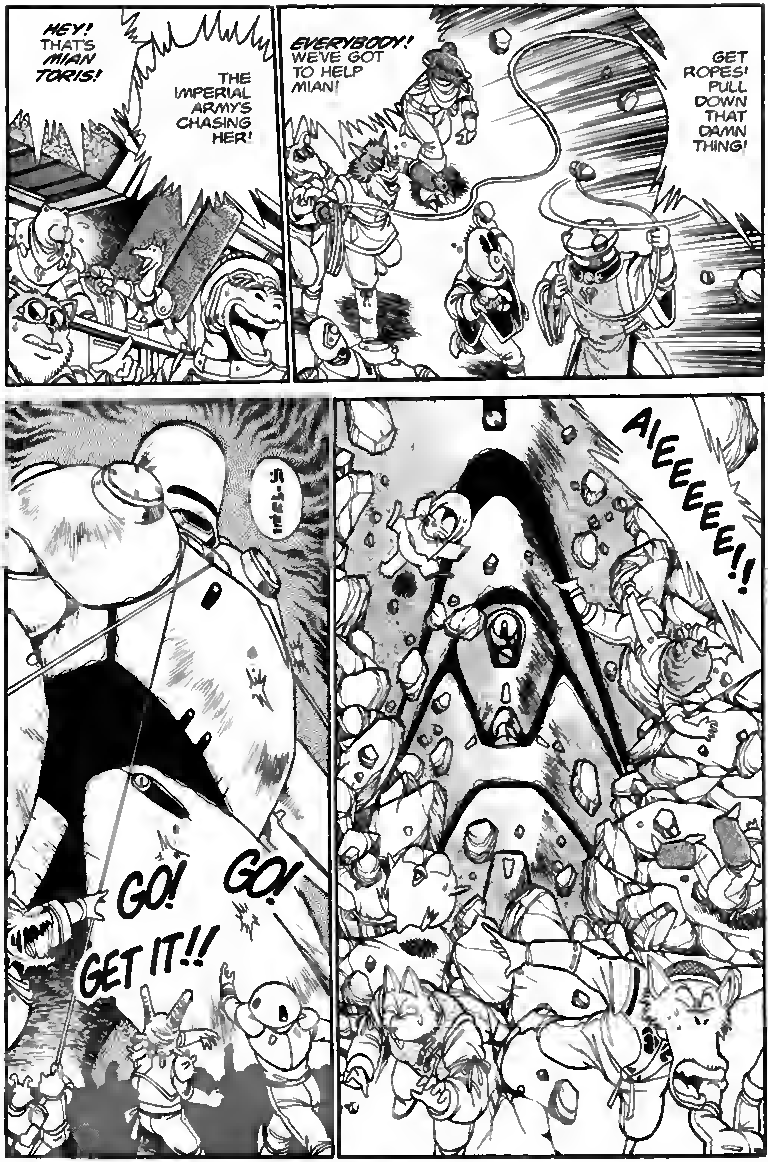

WHAT THE HELL?!
AN IMPERIAL ARMORED COMBAT DROID?!
GET *REAL*, YOU PATHETIC, SLOW-MOTION MONSTER!

RUSTY JUNKHEAP!
DIE!
KRANGGGG


EEK!
OW OW OWW!!
WHAT THE HELL IS IT MADE OF?
KOOM
YIKES!
THERE'S A TIME TO FIGHT, AND A TIME TO RUN!


JUST HOW LONG DID YOU THINK YOU COULD KEEP USING THAT SWORD, EH? FOOLISH GIRL.
HAGNOR 101 CANNOT BE DESTROYED BY PHYSICAL MEANS!
THAT SPECIAL CRYSTALLIZED ARMOR IS THE PINNACLE OF OUR COMPANY'S TECHNOLOGY, TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO DEFEAT YOU!
VERY IMPRESSIVE. THIS DEMONSTRATION SHOULD GUARANTEE YOUR COMPANY A LARGE PRODUCTION ORDER. VERY LARGE, INDEED
WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU, SIR AND WE REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS
A SMALL... HONORARIUM?
OF COURSE, GENERAL..
HAGNOR 101 HAS BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH ONE ORDER, SIR. TO EXTERMINATE MIAN TORIS..
SHE CAN RUN UNTIL SHE DROPS, RUN UNTIL HELL ITSELF FREEZES OVER. OUR 101 WILL NEVER GIVE UP!

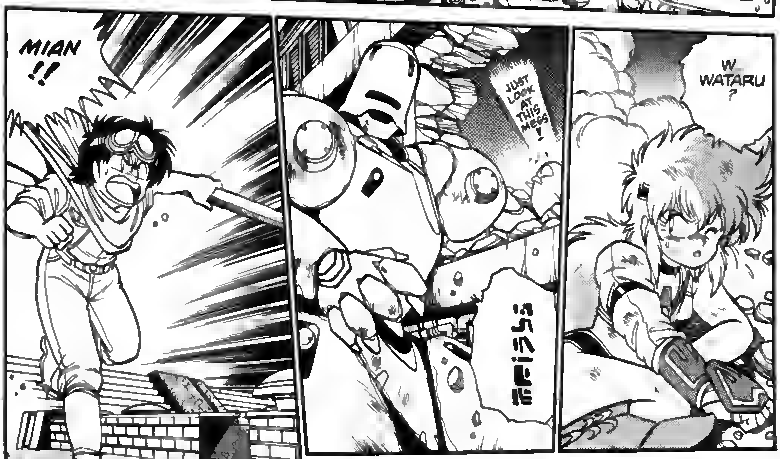
YOW! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
RUN FOR IT! YOU'LL BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH!
GEE, WHERE'D EVERYONE GO?
MIAN, YOU STILL HERE?
WHAM
KRUNCH
WHKOOM
LORD'A MERCY!
MOVE! MOVE IT!!
WHAT THE-?


HEY! THAT'S MIAN TORIS!
THE IMPERIAL ARMY'S CHASING HER!
EVERYBODY! WE'VE GOT TO HELP MIAN!
GET ROPES! PULL DOWN THAT DAMN THING!
AIEEEEE!!
GO! GO! GET IT!!

GET BACK!
YOU'LL ALL BE KILLED!
WHOOPS!
YOU DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?!
SKAK

WHRAM
TH-THAT'S ONE FOR YOU...!

HNN...


MIAN !!
JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS !
W WATARU ?

YOU BIG BULLY!
KANG
KANG
KANG
Ouuuuuuu!
WATARU! DON'T BE AN IDIOT!! GET AWAY!
WHANG
WHY YOU, I OUGHTA--
WATARU !!!
Run Run!
OW OW OW !!

WHAK
WH
RUD
HLLK

WATARU!!
SKSSHH
MI...AN...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING..
YOU CAN'T..
LEGGO YOU--!!
!!

KNCH
KNCH
NGG!!
DAMN IT! NOT NOW! WE'VE COME SO FAR...
KNCH
SKRAKKK
IT'S THE END...
SHI..
ON...

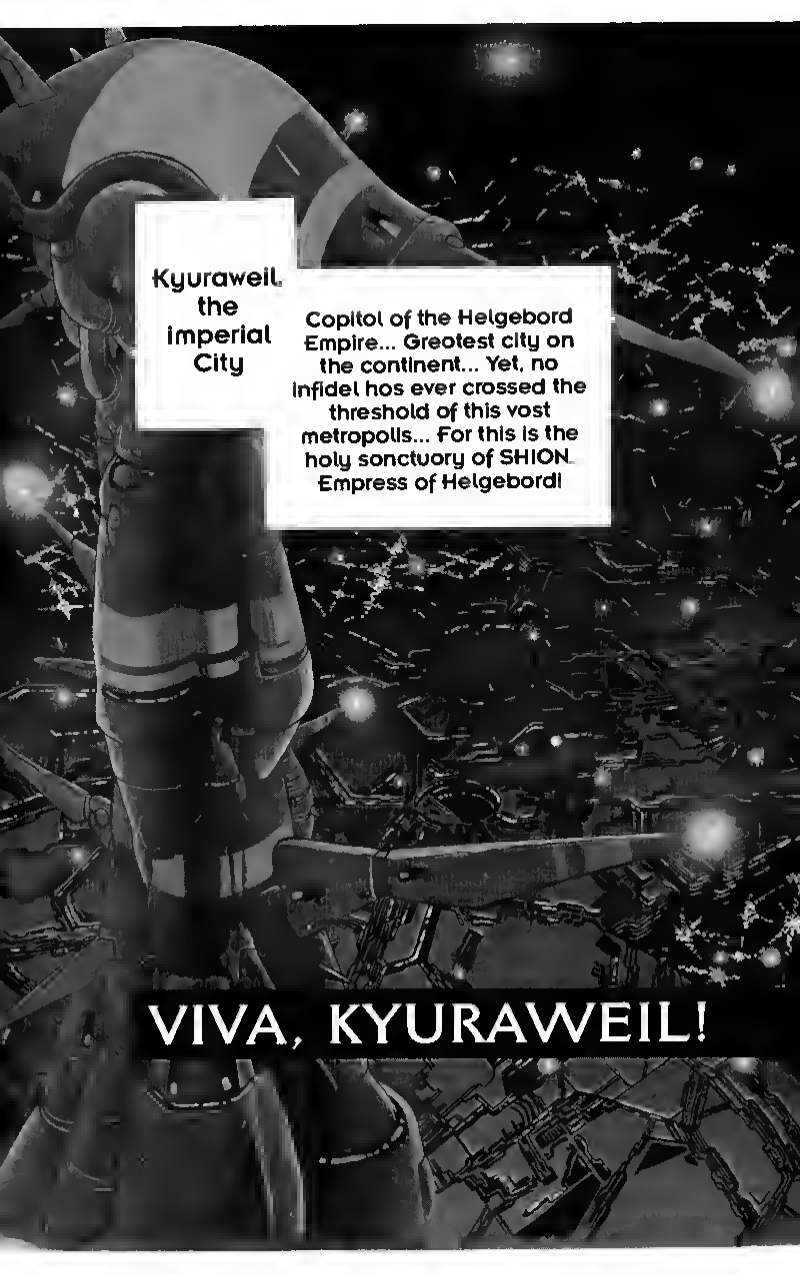
WHAT THE-!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED! TELL ME!!
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NO IDEA!
BRAVO, BRAVO!
CLAP CLAP
A STUNNING PERFORMANCE, GENERAL MANSTEIN!
!!
I'M SURE OUR MAJESTY ENJOYED YOUR LITTLE COMEDY.
KESSELRING, HOW...?
SO THAT'S IT!
IT'S YOUR DOING! SOME FILTHY TRICK!!
STOP WHIMPERING, MANSTEIN!!

I SENT A HYPO-WAVE TO DESTORY YOUR GRUBBY LITTLE TOY...
IT SEEMS I OVER-ESTIMATED YOU, GENERAL!
BUT.. BUT WHY?!
THAT GIRL IS AN ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE! YOUR OWN ENEMY, MAJESTY!
"WHY"..?! YOU DARE QUESTION MY ORDERS, MANSTEIN?!
I SAID TO CAPTURE HER, NOT ELIMINATE HER!
Y-YOUR HIGHNESS!

YET EVEN NOW, HER INFLUENCE..
STOPPING HER HAS TO COME FIRST!
YOU DISOBEYED MY ORDERS
YOU DISOBEYED ME!
NOW YOU MAY SAMPLE THE EXQUISITE PLEASURE OF A LIVING HELL! TAKE HIM TO DUNGEON FOUR!
WATARU...

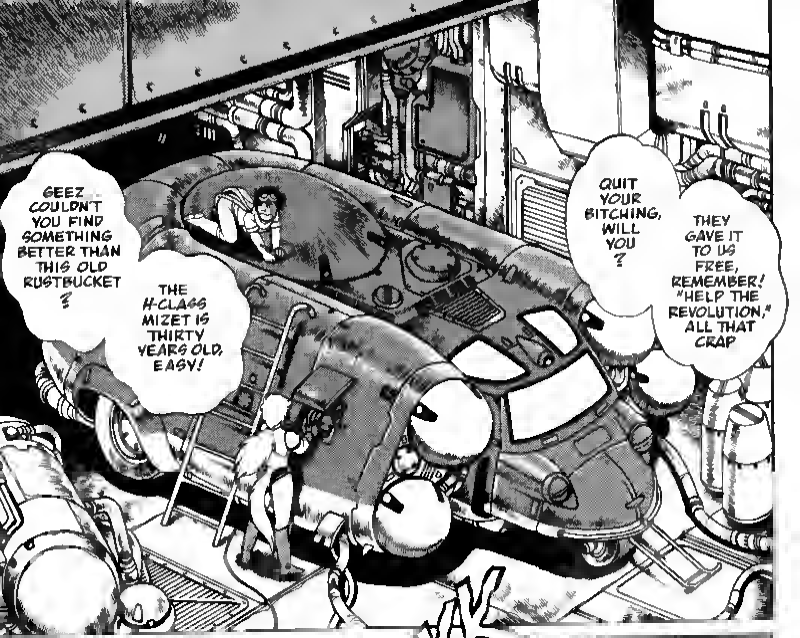
M-MY POOR WATARU !!!
CUT!!
EH ?!

IT'S A WRAP, SWEETHEARTS YOU WERE SMASHING!
GREAT PERFORMANCE, WATARU! LOVED IT, BABE!
NO KIDDING?!
!
EXPLANATIONS, WATARU DEAR?
OH, SURE! IT'S A MOVIE, SEE?!
ALL ABOUT HOW MIAN TORIS PUTS HER LIFE ON THE LINE FOR THIS HANDSOME YOUNG HUNK.
FAKE BLOOD
I TELL YA, REALITY'S THE WAY TO GO WITH COMBAT SCENES CHEAP, TOO!
IT WAS WORTH WAITING FOR THE EMPIRE TO SHOW UP AFTER ALL
HOW YOU FEELING, STAR?
PIECE'A CAKE!
♫
THE WAY MIAN BEATS UP ON ME ALL THE TIME, THAT WAS NOTHIN' BUT A LITTLE LOVE TAP!
HUGS
WAAHH! MY FILM, MY PRECIOUS FILM!
LET ME TOUGHEN YOU UP A BIT MORE, YOU LITTLE RAT!!
YA EE!


Kyuraweil, the Imperial City
Capitol of the Helgebord Empire... Greatest city on the continent... Yet, no infidel has ever crossed the threshold of this vast metropolis... For this is the holy sanctuary of SHION, Empress of Helgebord!
VIVA, KYURAWEIL!

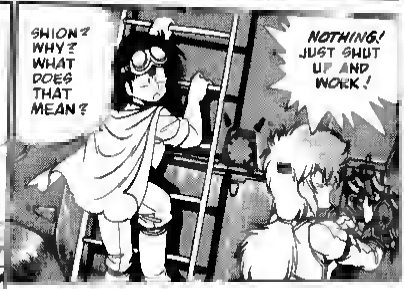
VREEEE!
WHEW...
WATARU, GET OUT HERE AND GIVE ME A HAND!
WATARU!
YOU LAZY SLUG! WHERE ARE YOU, ANYWAY?!
YUM-YUM ♡

GREAT VIEW!
WA-TA-RU!!!
SHUT UP, YOU FILTHY, DEPRAVED PERVERT!!!
PUNCHES, KICKS, AND BEATINGS, THAT'S ALL!
AW, KNOCK IT OFF, MIAN! WHAT OTHER PERKS DO I GET?!
HAH! PROBABLY NOT EVEN THAT WOULD STOP YOU, YOU TWISTOID!
C'MON, MIAN-- I SAID KNOCK IT OFF, NOT CUT IT OFF!


GEEZ... COULDN'T YOU FIND SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS OLD RUSTBUCKET?
THE H-CLASS MIZET IS THIRTY YEARS OLD, EASY!
QUIT YOUR BITCHING, WILL YOU?
THEY GAVE IT TO US FREE, REMEMBER! "HELP THE REVOLUTION," ALL THAT CRAP

BUT THEY SAID IF WE'D WAIT A DAY OR TWO THEY'D GET US A NEW— YEOWW!!
HEY I'M IN A NURRY

KYURAWEIL'S ONLY A FEW HOURS AWAY EVEN IN THIS OLD HEAP. THERE'S NO RUSH
MAYBE NOT ON OUR END BUT GHION'S NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR ME TO GET THERE


GHION? WHY? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
NOTHING! JUST SHUT UP AND WORK!

WELL, I MAY NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE OUR TRIP'S ALMOST OVER..
I MEAN, KYURAWEIL'S RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSE PRACTICALLY
IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY..
MIAN, I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
YEAH? WHAT?
NOTHING IT'S JUST..
ONCE THIS TRIP IS OVER, WHATCHA GONNA DO?
WELL, WELL.. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD
REALLY?! IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT WITH US SOME MORE?! HUH?!
TOWN TO TOWN, SELLING BABO'S JUNK, LIKE THAT!
TRAVEL WITH YOU TWO?
SURE!
UH, SO, WHATCHA THINK?

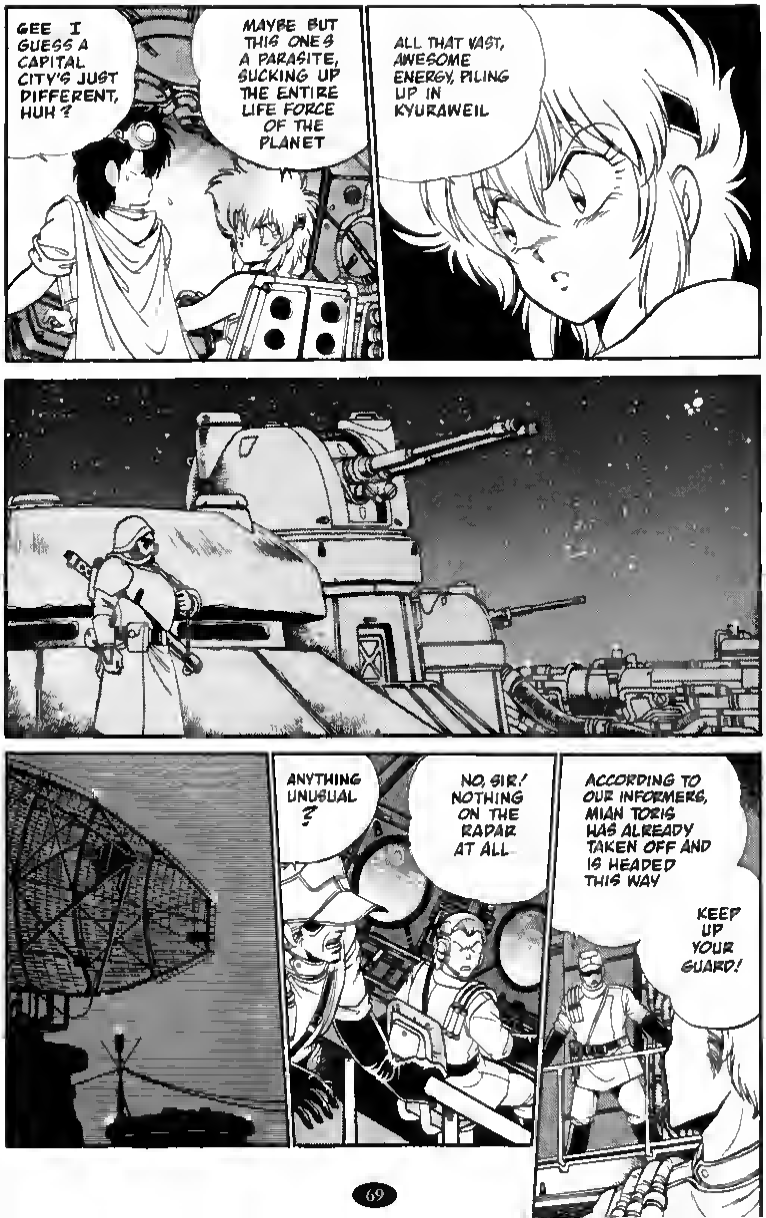
OH MY-- ISN'T THAT AN INTERESTING LITTLE OFFER!
NOW, WHO WAS IT WHO, NOT TOO LONG AGO, TIED ME UP AND TRIED TO RUN AWAY, I WONDER?
WELL, UH, ER--
WELL, WHAT THE HEY... IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, NO B-BIGGIE.
JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE.. Y'KNOW.. FUN WITH YOU ALONG. TWO GUYS, NO-RING.
OKAY!
HUH? WHAT? YOU MEAN IT?
YEP
CROSS MY HEART AND HOPE TO DIE
OH WOW! THAT'S GREAT! GREAT!
MAN, I'M GLAD I FINALLY GOT UP THE NERVE TO ASK!
ALL RIGHT! NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, LET'S GET A MOVE ON! KYURAWEIL'S JUST A HOP AWAY!
WHAT A SLEEK LITTLE BEAUTY! PERFECT FOR THE LORD'S WORK.
HUH?

"AWAKEN TO THE GLORY AND TRUTH OF MIANISM! NEW CONVERTS WELCOME!"...
?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS ?!
PROSELYTIZATION TRACTS, SWEETHEART! FOR THE CULT OF THE VIRGIN MIAN!
LEMME SEE... "THE VIRGIN PROPHETESS MIAN, BLESSED BY THE HAND OF GOD, WILL LIBERATE YOU FROM EARTHLY CARES..." WHAT IS THIS CRAP?!
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP?
SOME KIND OF NEW RIP-OFF?!
OF COURSE, MY YOUNG NAIF! RELIGION'S WHERE THE REAL MONEY'S AT! IT'S ALL THE RAGE!
LOOKS CLEAN TO THE FEDS, NICE, NON-TRACEABLE CASH DONATIONS; TAX-FREE...
$
SACRED RELICS! HOLY ICONS! MAKE 'EM CHEAP IN SOME OFF-WORLD BACKWATER, MARK 'EM UP 2000%!
AMEN! HALLELUJAH!
AND THE SUCKERS BUY LIKE IT'S GOING OUT OF STYLE!
JUST SOUNDS LIKE MORE FRAUD, TO ME
"FRAUD"? "FRAUD"? BUSINESS AND CRIME ARE JUST A CONTRACT APART, MY BOY
DIRTY MONEY SPENDS JUST AS EASY...
WE'RE GOING TO THE CAPITAL, RIGHT?! LOTSA CHUMPS THERE, I'LL BETCHA! I PRINTED UP TEN THOUSAND OF 'EM
$
GO STUFF YOUR HEAD UP A PIG

WHSSSHHH
HEY, C'MON, BABO! CHOW DOWN! MADE IT MYSELF!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, LAUGHING BOY?
YOU'RE IN A PRETTY GOOD MOOD, WATARU.
YOU THINK? GEE, MAYBE SO!
HERE YOU GO! MUG O'JAVA AND AN EGG SALAD SANDWICH!
CAN'T FIGHT THE EMPIRE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!
UH, THANKS

HEY, WATARU!
HUH?
TAKE A PEEK OUTSIDE, WHY DON'T YOU?
OUTSIDE? WHY...?
HOLY COW!
WHAT'S THAT?!

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS-- MAYBE MILLIONS-- OF CONDUITS, ALL STRETCHING TOWARD KYURAWEIL...
CONDUITS...?
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL THE ENERGY, ALL THE RESOURCES FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT... NO, THE WHOLE PLANET. ALL FEEDING INTO KYURAWEIL

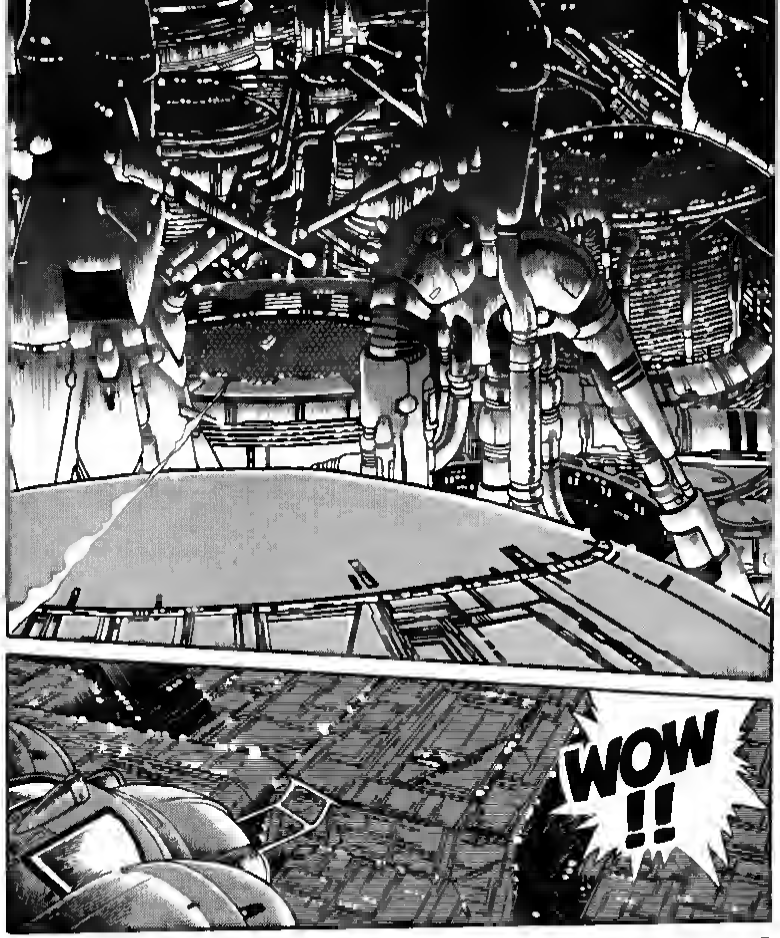

GEE I GUESS A CAPITAL CITY'S JUST DIFFERENT, HUH?
MAYBE BUT THIS ONE'S A PARASITE, SUCKING UP THE ENTIRE LIFE FORCE OF THE PLANET
ALL THAT VAST, AWESOME ENERGY, PILING UP IN KYURAWEIL
ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
NO, SIR! NOTHING ON THE RADAR AT ALL
ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMERS, MIAN TORIS HAS ALREADY TAKEN OFF AND IS HEADED THIS WAY
KEEP UP YOUR GUARD!

WHSSSHHH
!!
HEY! THAT'S A JET ENGINE!
COMING THIS WAY!
RADAR ROOM! DON'T YOU HAVE A CONTACT? WE CAN HEAR THE DAMN THING!
NO RESPONSE?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S GETTING CLOSER! CAN'T YOU SEE ANYTHING?!
NOTHING! I DON'T GET IT!
WHOOSH!
AIEE!

WHOOSH
M-MIAN! ISN'T THIS A LITTLE LOW?!
ANY HIGHER AND THEY'LL NAIL US ON RADAR, DUMMY!
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH
CALL HQ! HURRY!
RED ALERT FROM FORWARD AIR DEFENSE POST FORTY-SEVEN!
AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT HAS BROKEN THROUGH OUR PICKET LINES! FLYING NOE!
BOGEY NOW PENETRATING KYUEAWEIL INNER AIRSPACE!
THIS IS AN AIR DEFENSE RED ALERT
CAPITAL AIR DEFENSE SQUADRONS! INTERCEPT AND DESTROY!

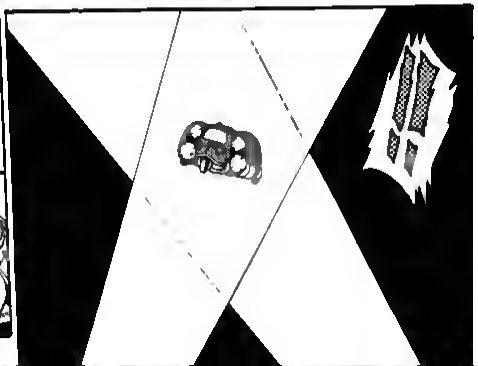
VREEEE
VREEEEE
VREEEE
KCHAK

HEY--IT'S GETTING LIGHTER UP AHEAD!
THE LIGHTS OF KYURAWEIL, THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS!
KYURAWEIL!
ULP...
WHEN WE CLEAR THE NEXT RIDGE, WE'RE THERE!
BUCKLE UP!



WOW
!!

INCREDIBLE! I...I'VE NEVER SEEN A CITY LIKE IT.
THERE'S OUR MARKS, KIDDO. IT'S SHOWTIME !!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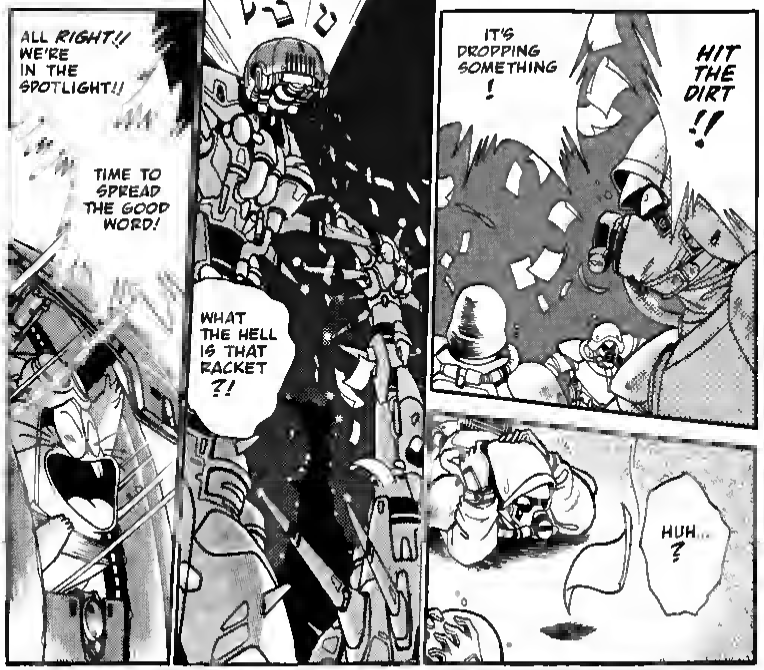
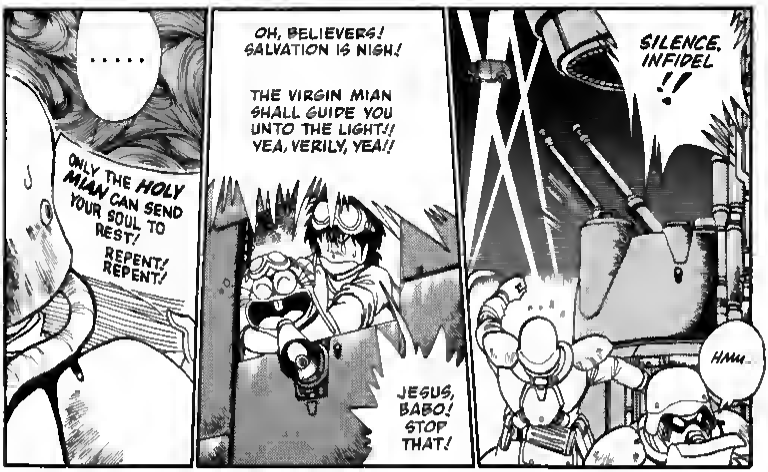
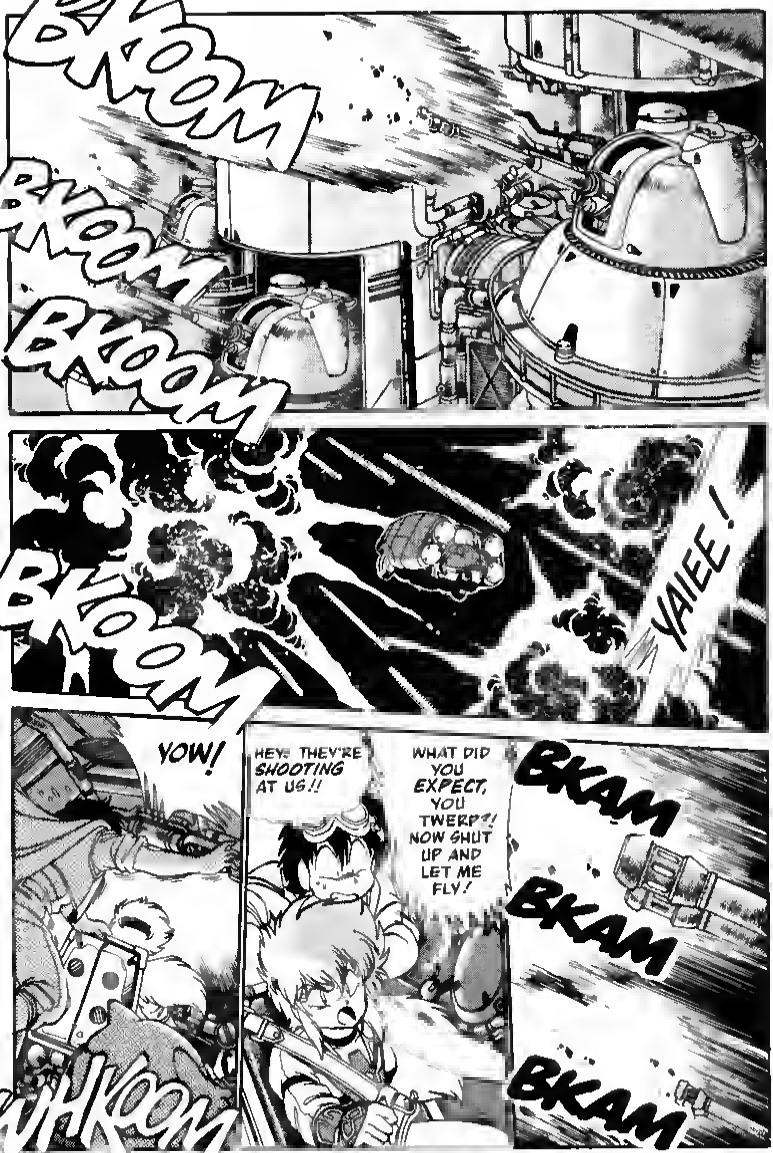

ALL RIGHT!! WE'RE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!
TIME TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT RACKET ?!
IT'S DROPPING SOMETHING !
HIT THE DIRT !!
HUH... ?


.....
ONLY THE HOLY MIAN CAN SEND YOUR SOUL TO REST! REPENT! REPENT!
OH, BELIEVERS! SALVATION IS NIGH!
THE VIRGIN MIAN SHALL GUIDE YOU UNTO THE LIGHT!! YEA, VERILY, YEA!!
JESUS, BABO! STOP THAT!
SILENCE, INFIDEL !!
HMM...


BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
BKOOM
YAIEE!
YOW!
WHKOOM
HEY! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US!!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, YOU TWERP?! NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME FLY!
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM

WHKAAM
GYAAH!!
FOOMP
FIRE!!
BABO! HELP ME 'EE ON IT!
BAM BAM BAM
USE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, YOU BRICK-BRAINS!!
HEATHEN SWINE! DARE THOU SHOOT AT THE HOLY VIRGIN MIAN'I! VENGEANCE IS MINE, SAYETH THE BABO!
I DON'T GOTTA GO RIGHT NOW!
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!!
NO WE'RE NOT!! NOW SIT DOWN!!
MOMMY!!!

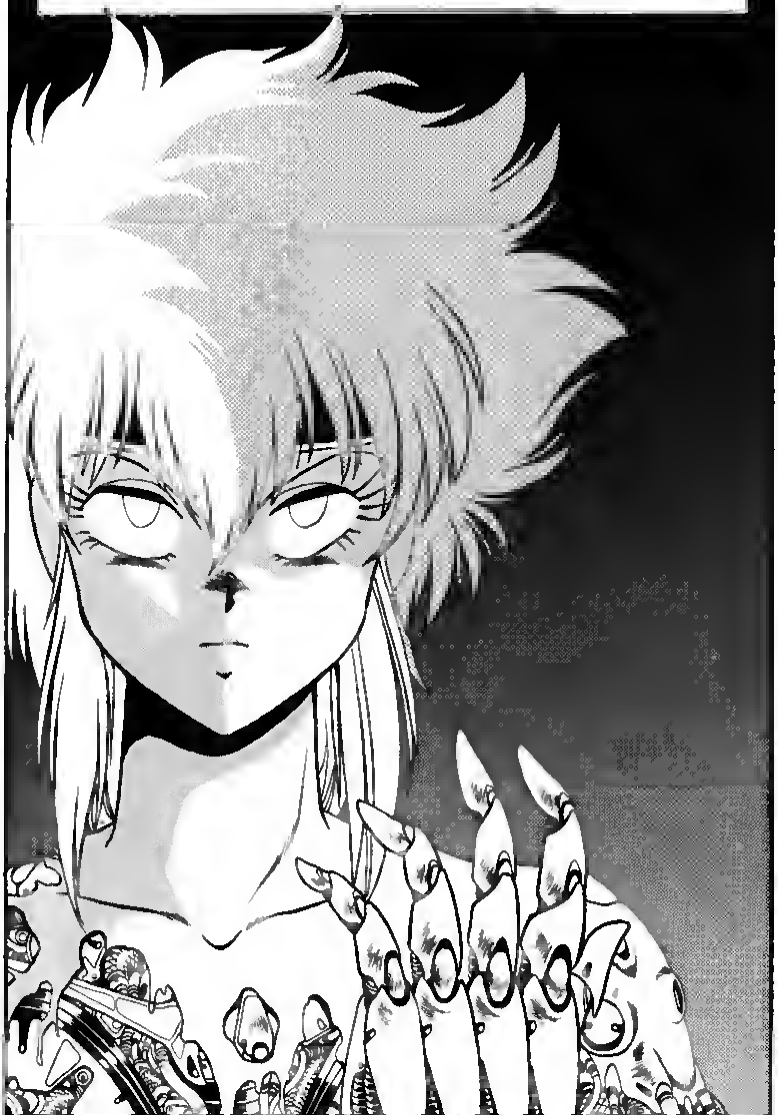
I D-DON'T REALLY WANNA KNOW. BUT...
...IS THAT KYURAWEIL KEEP?!
IT SURE IS-- THE CITADEL OF EMPRESS SHION.
NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY!

GOD DAMN, THAT'S THE BIGGEST THING I EVER SAW
GUESS YOU CAN BLOW A LOT OF DOUGH WHEN YOU'RE AN EMPRESS!
!!
DORA ONE TO BELTAR THREE! TELL THE FLAK GUNS TO HOLD THEIR FIRE!
SHREEE
WE'RE GOING IN!!

BRTTTTTT
SHREEEE
ZIP IT! WE'RE GOING IN!
HEY, WHAT TH--?!
MIAN! CHECK SIX!

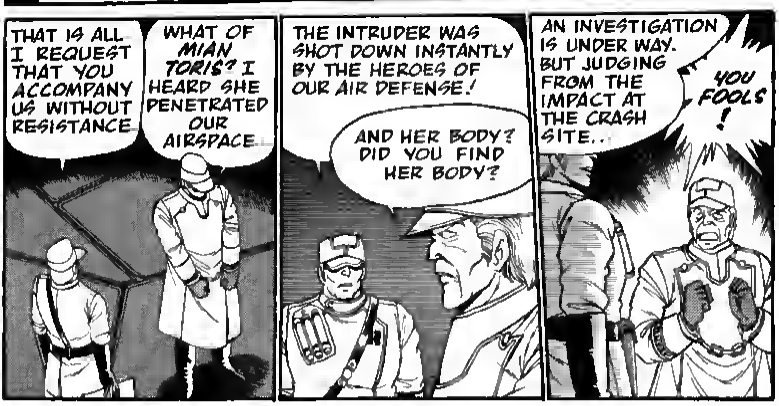
FROOM
VIRGIN MIAN S-SAVE US!!
MIAN!! HELLLP, MIAN!!
BUDDA BUDDA
DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT!!
BROOM
WELL, WELL, MIAN DEAR..
ALWAYS ONE FOR THE GRAND ENTRANCE, AREN'T WE..?

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES:
INTO THE GREAT LABYRINTH



ERICH von MANSTEIN! THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL OF HELGE-BARD FINDS YOU, THE ACCUSED, GUILTY OF HIGH TREASON AND CONDEMNS YOU TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT ON LEVEL FOUR!
IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS HEINOUS CRIME, YOU ARE DENIED PAROLE, PARDON, OR ANY REDUCTION IN THIS SENTENCE!

SIGNED-- IMPERIAL COMMANDER, JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, ALBERT KESSELRING!


THAT IS ALL I REQUEST THAT YOU ACCOMPANY US WITHOUT RESISTANCE
WHAT OF MIAN TORIS? I HEARD SHE PENETRATED OUR AIRSPACE
THE INTRUDER WAS SHOT DOWN INSTANTLY BY THE HEROES OF OUR AIR DEFENSE!
AND HER BODY? DID YOU FIND HER BODY?
AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDER WAY. BUT JUDGING FROM THE IMPACT AT THE CRASH SITE...
YOU FOOLS!

YOU UNDERESTIMATE HER YET AGAIN! THAT SINGLE GIRL CAN BRING DOWN OUR ENTIRE--
GENERAL, SIR!
FORGIVE MY IMPUDENCE, BUT YOU NO LONGER HAVE ANY AUTHORITY OVER OUR FORCES!
WE... THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE.
HEH!
SO THAT'S IT, IS IT...?
TAKE US TO LEVEL FOUR!
LEVEL FOUR. ONCE THERE, I'LL NEVER RETURN, AT LEAST NOT AS A HUMAN BEING
FREE
KSSHH

!
GENERAL, SIR! WE HAVE COME TO YOUR AID! WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND!
MY GRATITUDE, MEN! SO THERE ARE STILL SOME TRUE SOLDIERS AMONG US!

I UNDERSTAND GENERAL MANSTEIN HAS BEEN ARRESTED
YES, SO I HEARD APPARENTLY HE TRIED TO TERMINATE MIAN TORIS WITHOUT IMPERIAL PERMISSION
THEY SAY ALL THE OFFICERS WHO SUPPORTED HIM HAVE BEEN PURGED OR REPOSTED
IT'S A CHECKMATE FOR GENERAL KESSELRING, THEN?
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN BLOOD ENEMIES SINCE THE MILITARY ACADEMY
ONE THE JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF, THE OTHER THE GENERAL WHO NEVER LOST A CAMPAIGN
"WELL, AT LEAST THIS MEANS GENERAL KESSELRING IS FINALLY ON TOP, IN FACT AS WELL AS IN NAME.
"I GUESS WE CAN BREATHE EASIER OURSELVES.
BLIP
COME IN!
GENERAL, SIR! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!

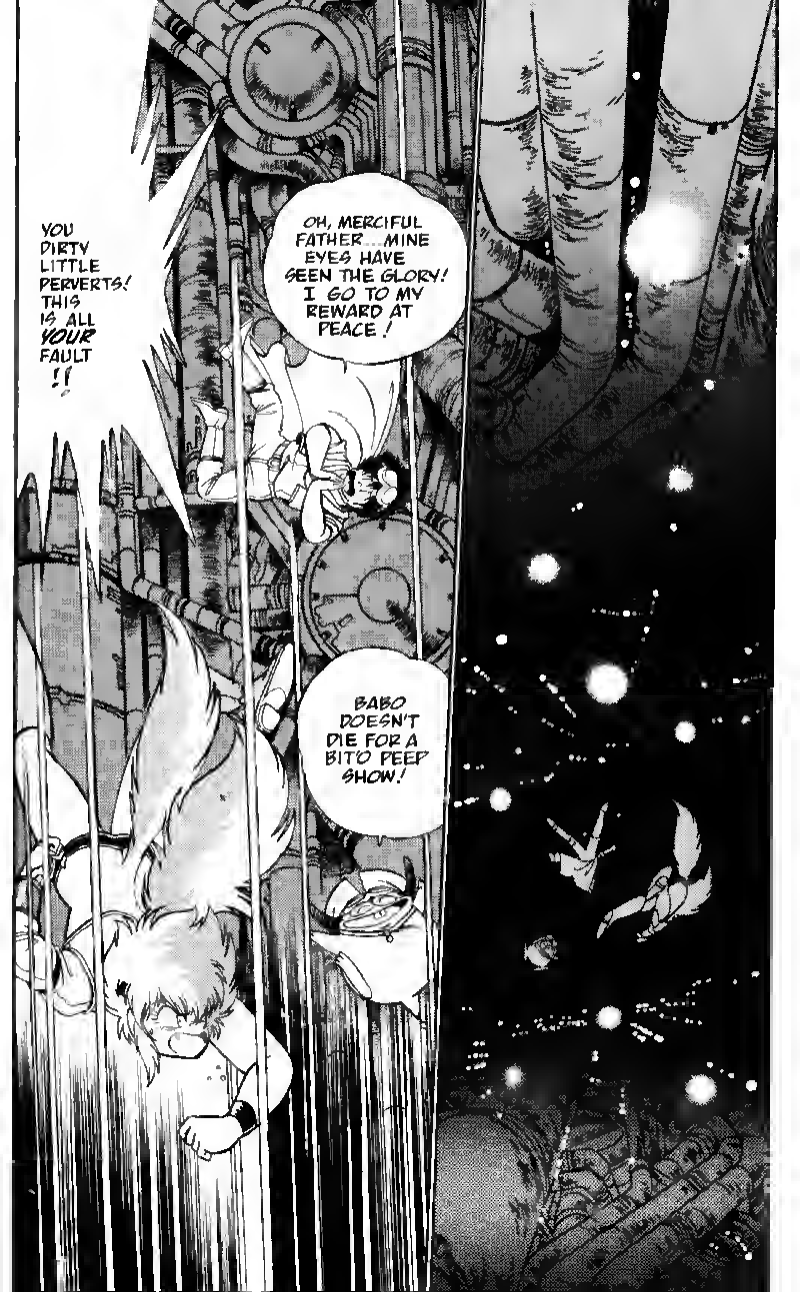
AN EMERGENCY, COLONEL? AND WHAT MIGHT IT BE? AN INFESTATION OF AKOGIS SELLING FAKE WATCHES?
NO, SIR.
HEH...
GENERAL MANSTEIN HAS ESCAPED FROM HIS GUARDS IN TRANSIT! WE CAN'T FIND HIM!
SKRASSH
WHAT!? WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
RENEGADE MANSTEIN SUPPORTERS HELPED HIS ESCAPE, SIR!
WE'VE ISSUED A FULL ALERT AND SEALED OFF THE CITADEL...
FIND HIM!!
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES! FIND HIM!!
AND WHEN YOU DO, SHOOT TO KILL!!
YOU'RE A TOUGH BASTARD, MANSTEIN...

VRNN VRNN

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE HOLDING ON TO?!
HEY, LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE!
BESIDES, IT COULD BE WORSE-- I COULD DO THIS!
EEK!
RUB RUB
STOP IT, YOU FREAK!!
OOH, SO SMOOTH, SO SOFT, SO WARM!
BONK
BONK
BONK

WHOOA!
ZOOP
S-STOP! STOP THAT! YOU IDIOT! YOU SLIMEBALL! YOU JERK!
STOP PULLING, YOU PERVERT!!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
STOP HOGGING THE FUN, WATARU! GIVE OLD BABO A PEEK!
JUST ANOTHER INCH OR TWO! GO FOR IT, LADDIE!

LET GO OF ME!!
PULL, WATAKU, PULL!
OW OW OW!!
PLEASE STOP! I MEAN IT! IT'LL COME OFF!!
EEEEK!!
OOPS
YAIEEEE!
WHOOSH


YOU DIRTY LITTLE PERVERTS! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT !!
OH, MERCIFUL FATHER...MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY! I GO TO MY REWARD AT PEACE!
BABO DOESN'T DIE FOR A BIT'O PEEP SHOW!

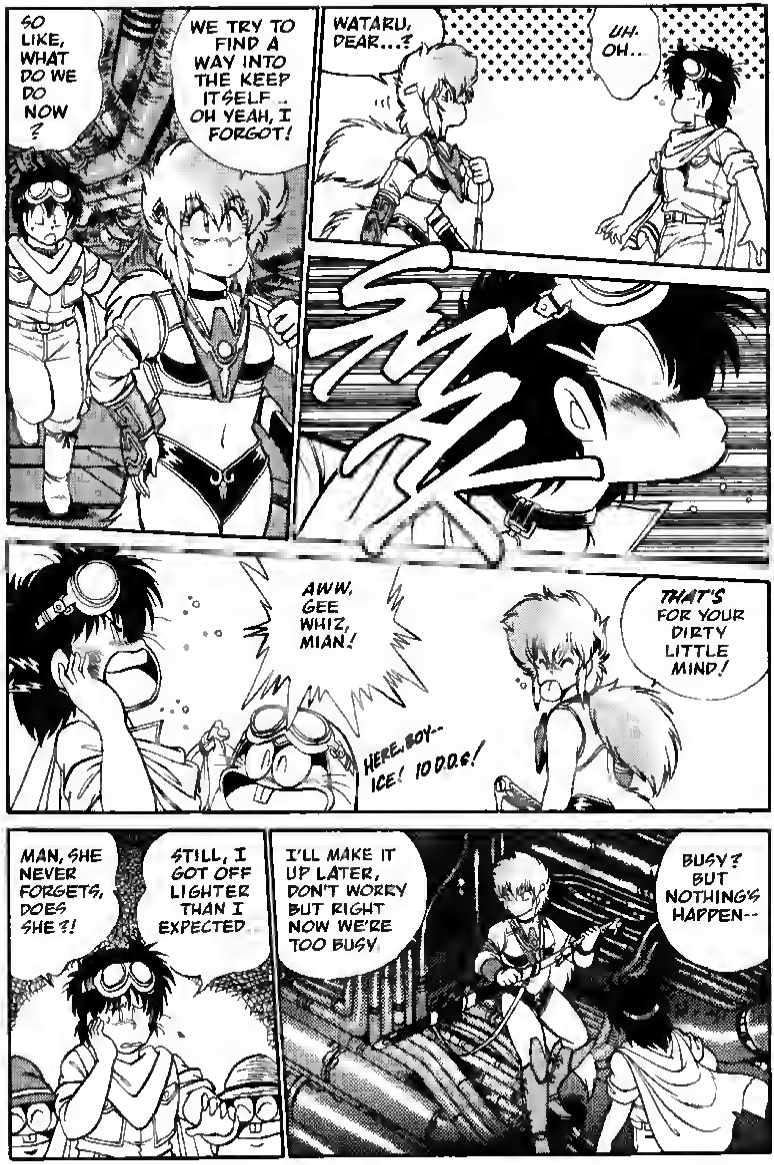
FLUD!!
HUH?! WHAT ARE THESE WEIRD RUBBERY THINGS?
OW WIE...
HMM. LOOKS LIKE WE FELL A REALLY LONG WAY...
WHO AM I WHERE AM I ?
OY!: USE OF AKOGIS AS LANDING MATS REQUIRES A CONTRACT AND SUBSTANTIAL DEPOSIT, SISTER!
EEEYUCK! AKOGIS!

EH ?!
IT CAN'T BE! NOT YOU GUYS?!
HALLELUJAH! IT'S GOOD OL' BABO!
IF IT AIN'T OLD HANKERSON! AND TRUMP!
KARABATSOS, MACKLIN, AND AOKI, YOU ROGUE, YOU!
HAVE MULLANEY AND HORN MADE PAROLE YET?
JEEZ, BABO.. YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?!
KNOW THEM?! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THIS IS THE WHOLE DROPOUT CLASS OF '72, AKOGI CENTRAL BUSINESS ACADEMY!
BY DAMN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
NYAHAHA
SKÅÅL !!
WHAT IS THIS?! CLASS REUNION TIME ?!
NOW MY HEAD HURTS..
JUST HANG IN THERE, MIAN...
PSSST, BABO.. DON'T TELL ME THAT'S MIAN TORIS, THE BIMBO THAT LAID THE GOLDEN EGG ?

OH, MISS MIAN! MAKE US YOUR PETS, TOO ?
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS !
NOW IS THAT A NICE THING TO SAY...?
BUT SINCE WHEN DID MERE WORDS HURT OUR THICK, WALTY HIDES, HUH ?!
FOR STARTERS, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING IN KYURAWEIL KEEP ?!
WE GO WHERE THE WIND BLOWS, SAGE!
THE WIND ?
MADAME, I SEE YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE GREAT AKOGI MIGRATION !
WHEN YOU GET TOO MANY AKOGI IN ONE SPOT, ECONOMIC GRIDLOCK! NO ONE CAN MAKE ANY DOUGH!
#@#@#
BUT THE GENIUS OF MOTHER NATURE HAS FOUND A WAY! WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE ALL CLIMB THE NEAREST TOWER...
AND SPEW FORTH DELICATE, FRAGILE STRANDS OF, UH, SOMETHING FROM OUR BEHINDS!!
SPLUT-SPLUT

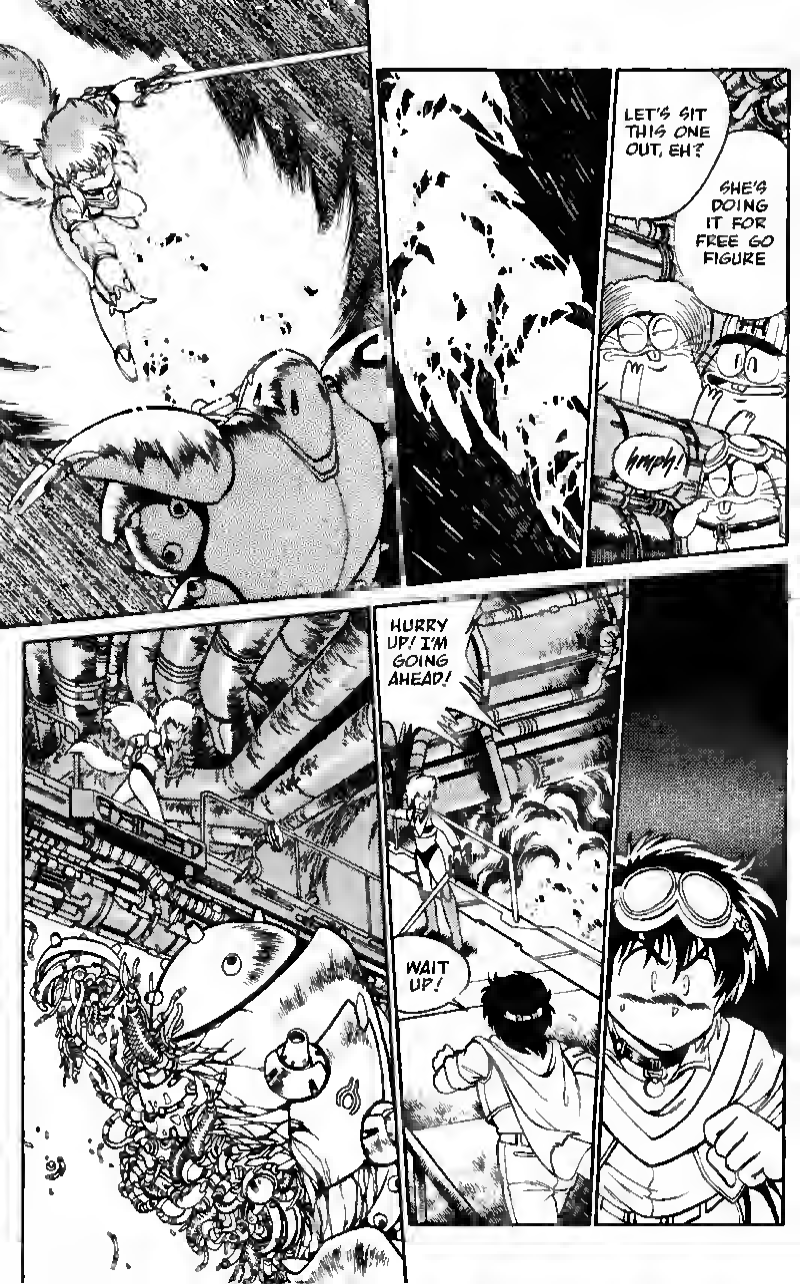
CAUGHT UPON THE SOARING WINDS, OUR SILKEN STRANDS WAFT US AROUND THE GLOBE, BRINGING THE BLESSING OF AKOGI BUSINESS ACUMEN TO ALL!!
(FROM THE STUDIO PROTEUS GOLDEN BOOK OF AKOGI BIOLOGY, VOL. III)
TAKE CARE, GUYS!
NO!
INSPIRES AWE, NO?
AND THUS WE ALL WOUND UP HERE, IN KYURAWEIL KEEP, BUT..
...SEE FOR YOURSELF! WHAT A DUMP!
MACHINES MACHINES WHEREVER YOU GO! AND I THOUGHT THE CAPITAL WAS MEGA-PORK BARREL PARADISE!
WELL WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? THIS IS A POWER PLANT, YOU BLOBS!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!

A POWER PLANT?
YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF, REMEMBER, WATARU? ALL THOSE PIPELINES FEEDING INTO THIS PLACE?
THIS IS A GIANT GENERATOR, CONVERTING ALL THOSE FOSSIL AND THERMAL RESOURCES INTO A DIFFERENT KIND OF ENERGY..
ZRNNNN
ZRNNN
ZRNNN

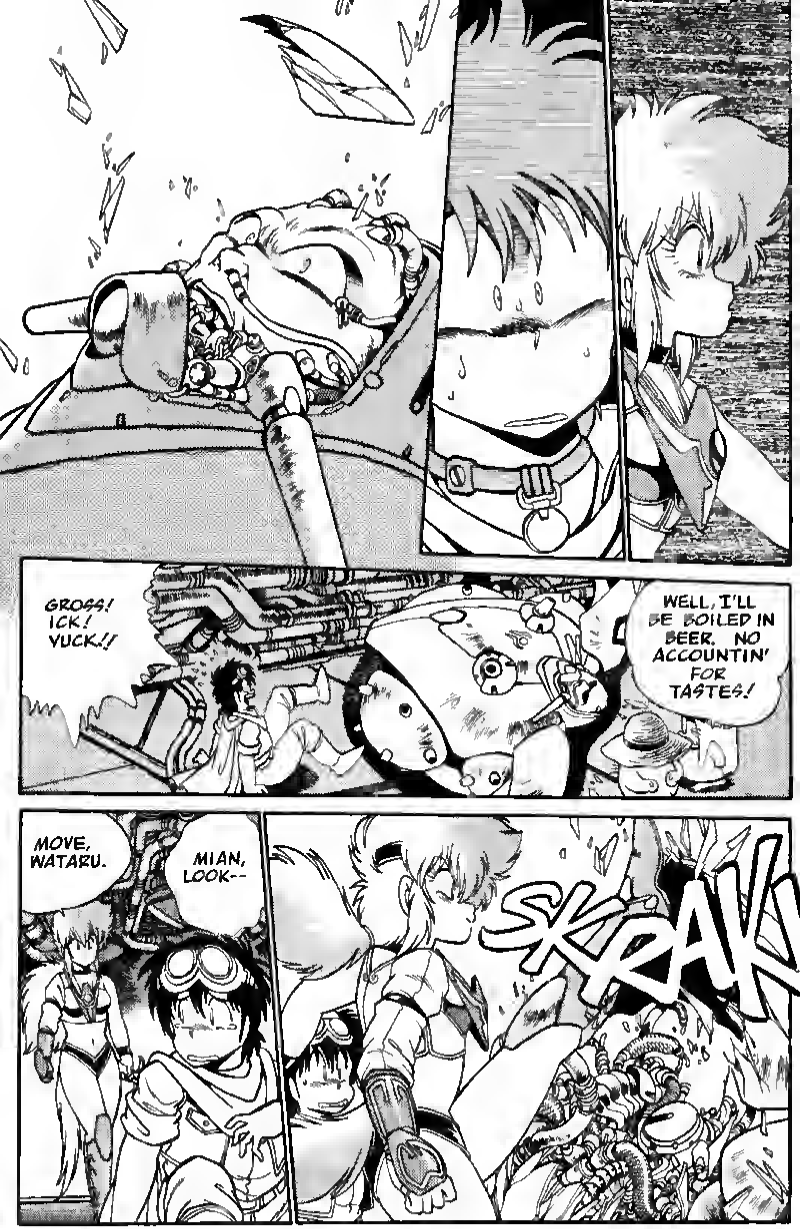

SO LIKE, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE TRY TO FIND A WAY INTO THE KEEP ITSELF... OH YEAH, I FORGOT!
WATARU, DEAR...?
UH-OH..
SLAK
AWW, GEE WHIZ, MIAN!
THAT'S FOR YOUR DIRTY LITTLE MIND!
HERE, BOY-- ICE! IOOO.O!
MAN, SHE NEVER FORGETS, DOES SHE?!
STILL, I GOT OFF LIGHTER THAN I EXPECTED
I'LL MAKE IT UP LATER, DON'T WORRY BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE TOO BUSY
BUSY? BUT NOTHING'S HAPPEN--

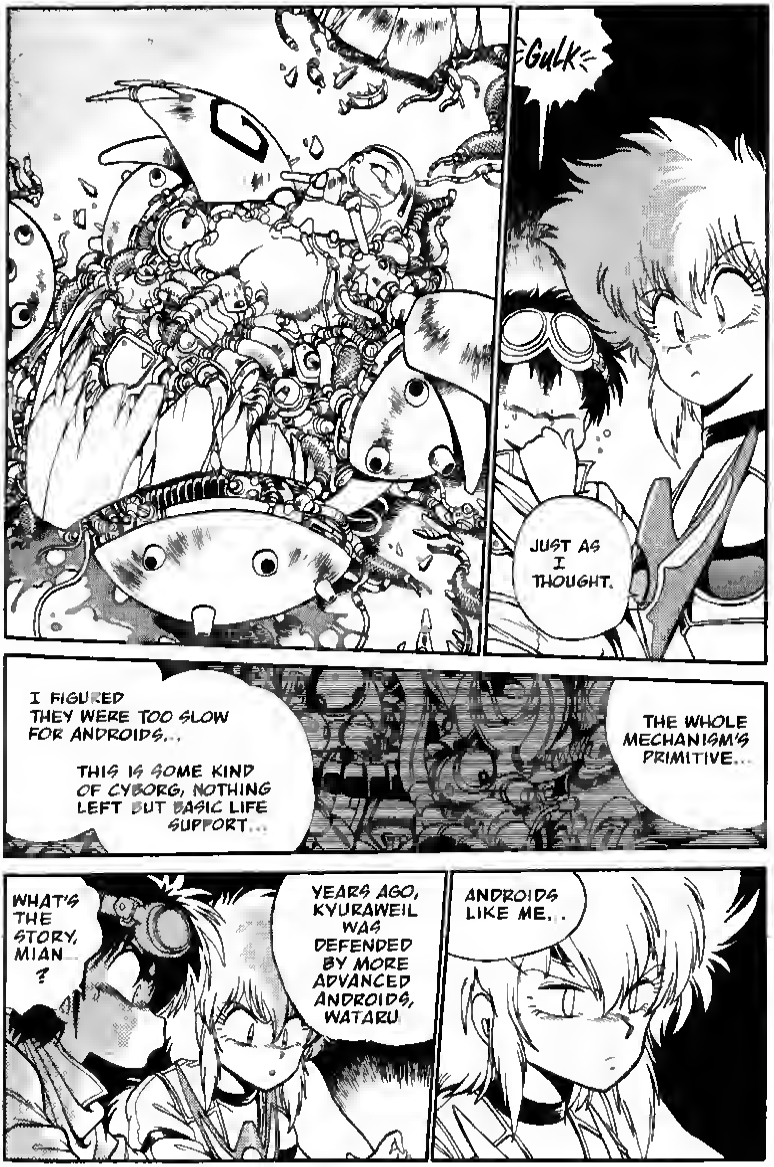
SSHHH
WH-WHAT ARE THOSE ?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ANDROID GUARDS, PROBABLY
!!
SNARK
YEOW! THEY SPOTTED US!
WE'RE GOING THROUGH !!

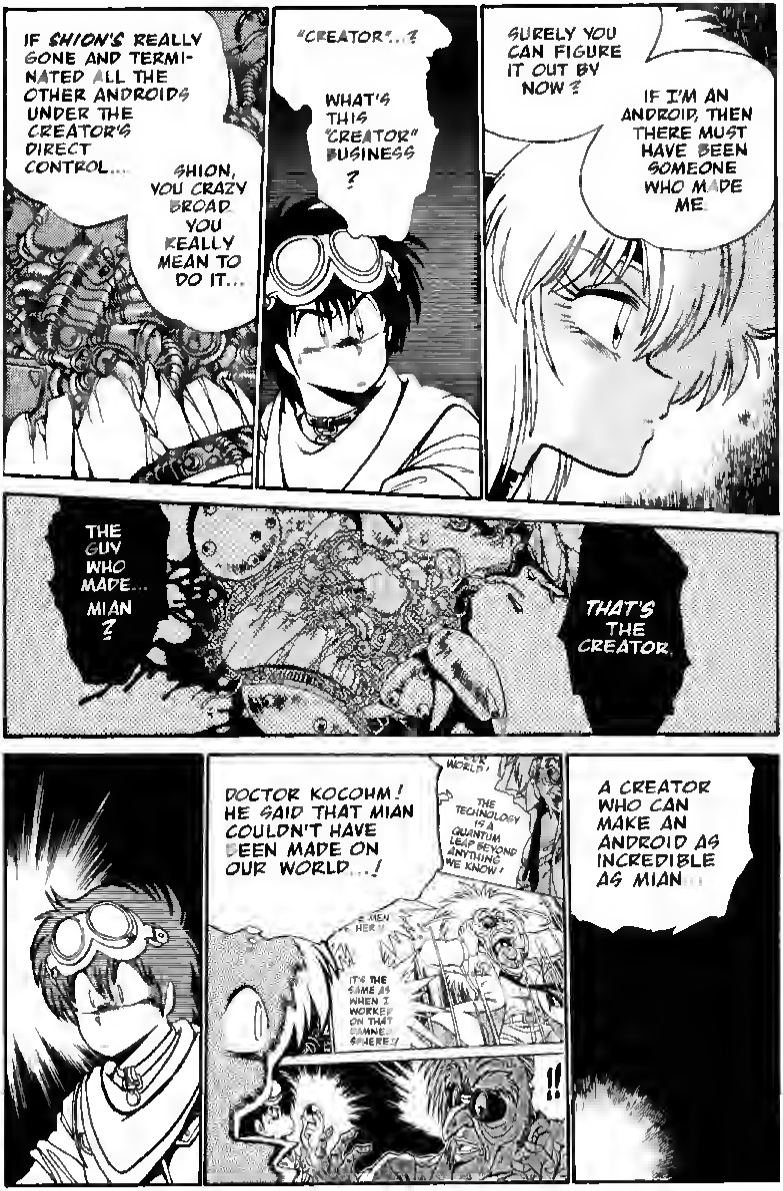
NHSSHH
KA
CHOK
WHA


LET'S SIT THIS ONE OUT, EH?
SHE'S DOING IT FOR FREE GO FIGURE
humph!
HURRY UP! I'M GOING AHEAD!
WAIT UP!

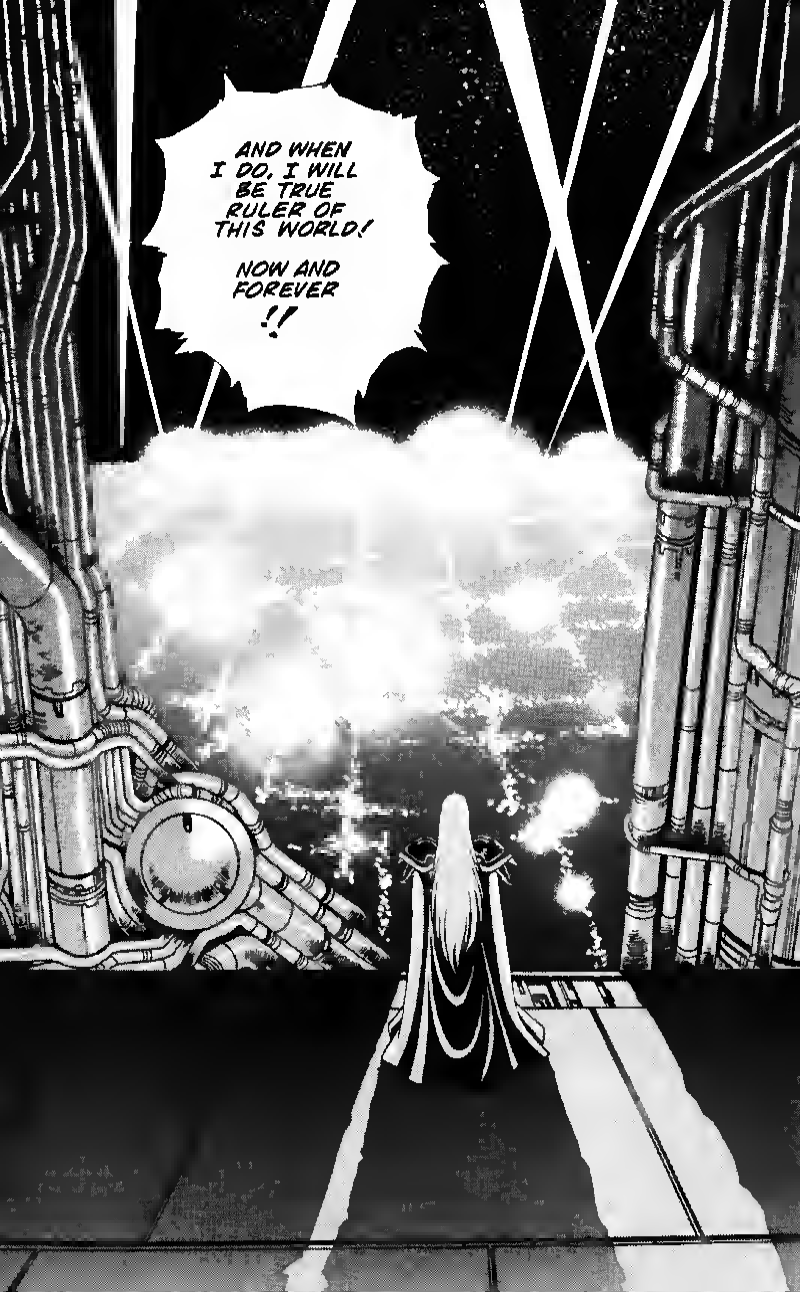
WATARU
!
SKRANG


GROSS! ICK! YUCK!!
WELL, I'LL BE BOILED IN BEER, NO ACCOUNTIN' FOR TASTES!
MOVE, WATARU.
MIAN, LOOK--
SKRAK!


=Gulk=
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
I FIGURED THEY WERE TOO SLOW FOR ANDROIDS...
THIS IS SOME KIND OF CYBORG, NOTHING LEFT BUT BASIC LIFE SUPPORT...
THE WHOLE MECHANISM'S PRIMITIVE...
WHAT'S THE STORY, MIAN...?
YEARS AGO, KYURAWEIL WAS DEFENDED BY MORE ADVANCED ANDROIDS, WATARU.
ANDROIDS LIKE ME...


IF SHION'S REALLY GONE AND TERMINATED ALL THE OTHER ANDROIDS UNDER THE CREATOR'S DIRECT CONTROL...
SHION, YOU CRAZY BROAD. YOU REALLY MEAN TO DO IT...
"CREATOR"...?
WHAT'S THIS "CREATOR" BUSINESS?
SURELY YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT BY NOW?
IF I'M AN ANDROID, THEN THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO MADE ME.
THE GUY WHO MADE... MIAN?
THAT'S THE CREATOR.
DOCTOR KOCOHM! HE SAID THAT MIAN COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MADE ON OUR WORLD...!
THE TECHNOLOGY IS A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ANYTHING WE KNOW!
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN I WORKED ON THAT DAMNED SPHERE!!
!!
A CREATOR WHO CAN MAKE AN ANDROID AS INCREDIBLE AS MIAN!!

I WILL TRANSCEND YOU, CREATOR!
I WILL MAKE YOU KNEEL BEFORE ME!


AND WHEN I DO, I WILL BE TRUE RULER OF THIS WORLD!
NOW AND FOREVER !!

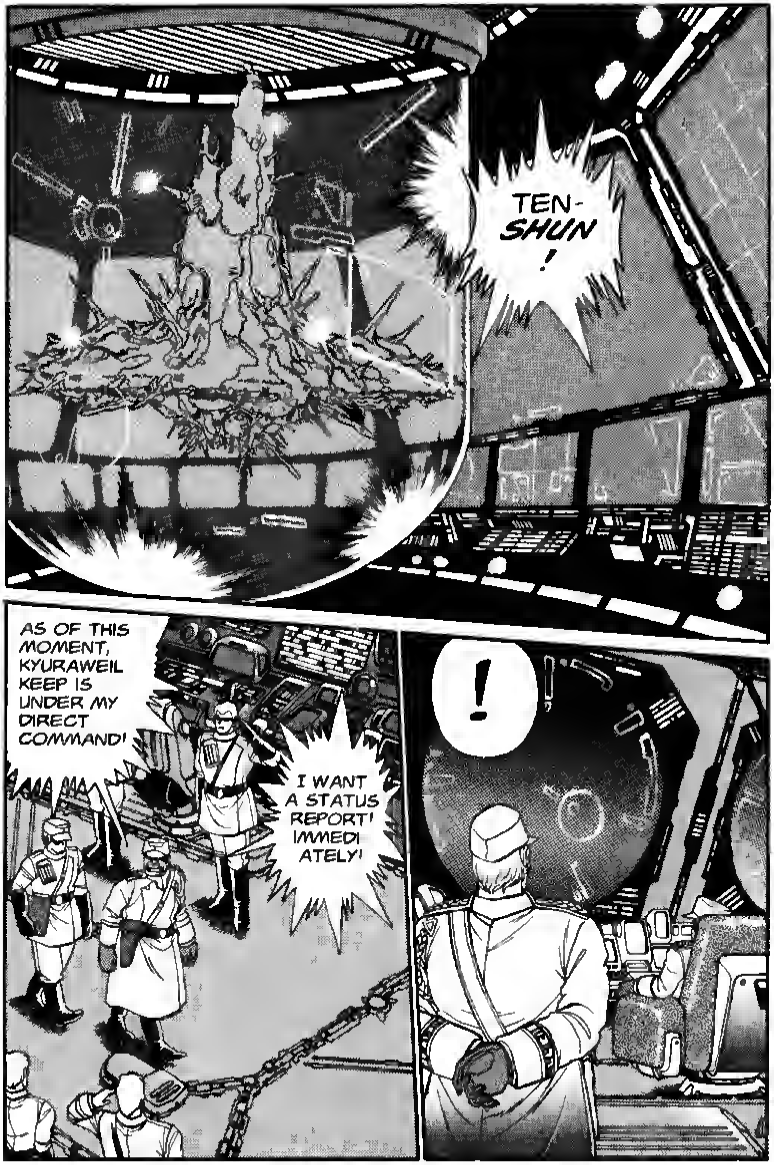
WHRAM
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!
KANG, KANG
YECCH! STOP COMING BACK TO LIFE!
THIS IS ANNOYING-- THEY JUST KEEP ON COMING!
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KILL THEM-

NO MORE QUESTIONS!
(AND FULL SPEED AHEAD!)
SO GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!

HEY, MIAN! TELL ME WHO THIS 'CREATOR' DUDE IS, WHY DON'TCHA?!
WHO THE HELL IS HE AND WHERE THE HELL DOES HE GET OFF?!
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
"SOON ENOUGH"-?! YAIEEEEE!

BKROOM
BABO, YOU CHEAP SWINE! WHAT KIND OF SLEAZY JOINT ARE YOU TAKING US TO?!
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT! COMPARED TO TIMES SQUARE OR SQHO THIS IS HEAVEN! WHAT A BLAST!
EXPLOSIONS AND FIRE ON SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL THREE, BLOCK E-36!
HEADQUARTERS, WE'VE FOUND MIAN TORIS! SHE'S ENGAGING THE EMPIRE GUARD!
IT'S MIAN TORIS, SIR! SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
MIAN TORIS STILL ALIVE?!
THAT HELL-SPAWNED BITCH !!
AND WHAT ABOUT MANSTEIN?! HAVE THEY CAPTURED HIM YET?!
WE'VE MOBILIZED EVERY AVAILABLE SOLDIER, SIR! BUT STILL...
ENOUGH OF YOUR EXCUSES! I'M TAKING COMMAND OF THE SEARCH MYSELF!
KRAK

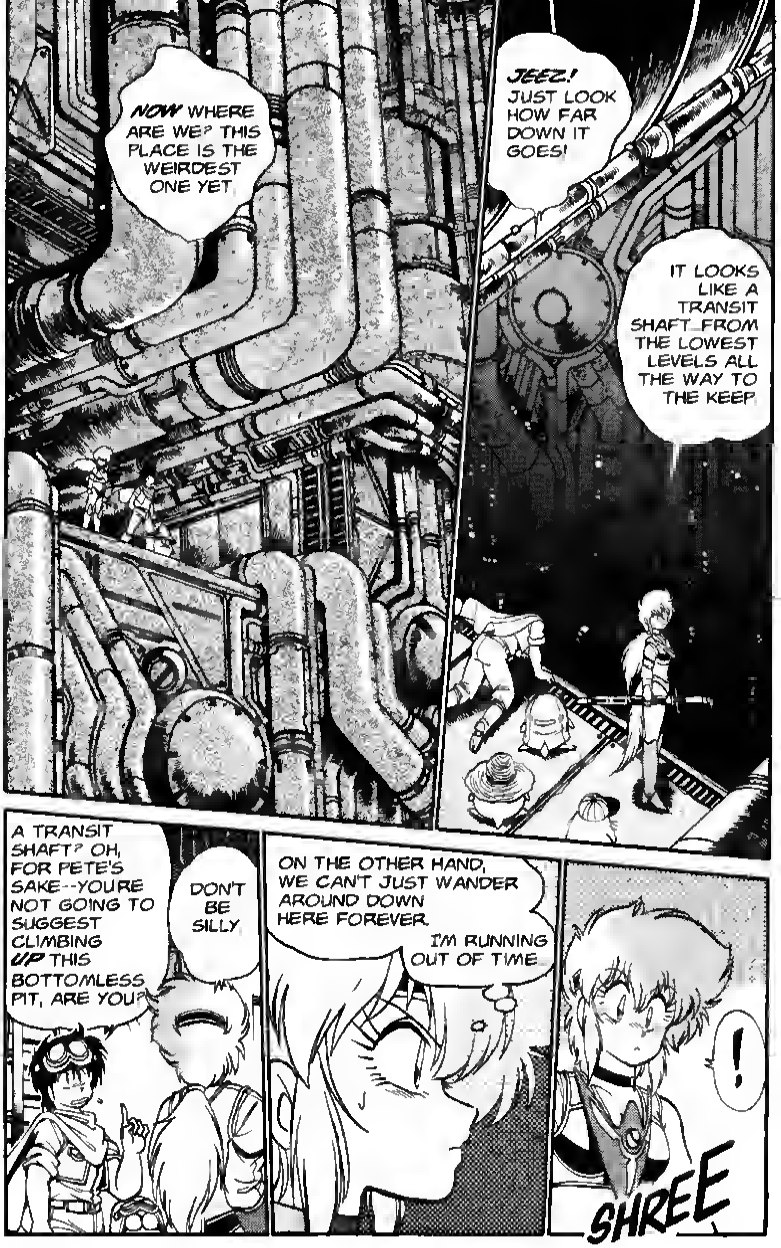

TEN-
SHUN
!
AS OF THIS MOMENT, KYURAWEIL KEEP IS UNDER MY DIRECT COMMAND!
I WANT A STATUS REPORT! IMMEDI ATELY!
!

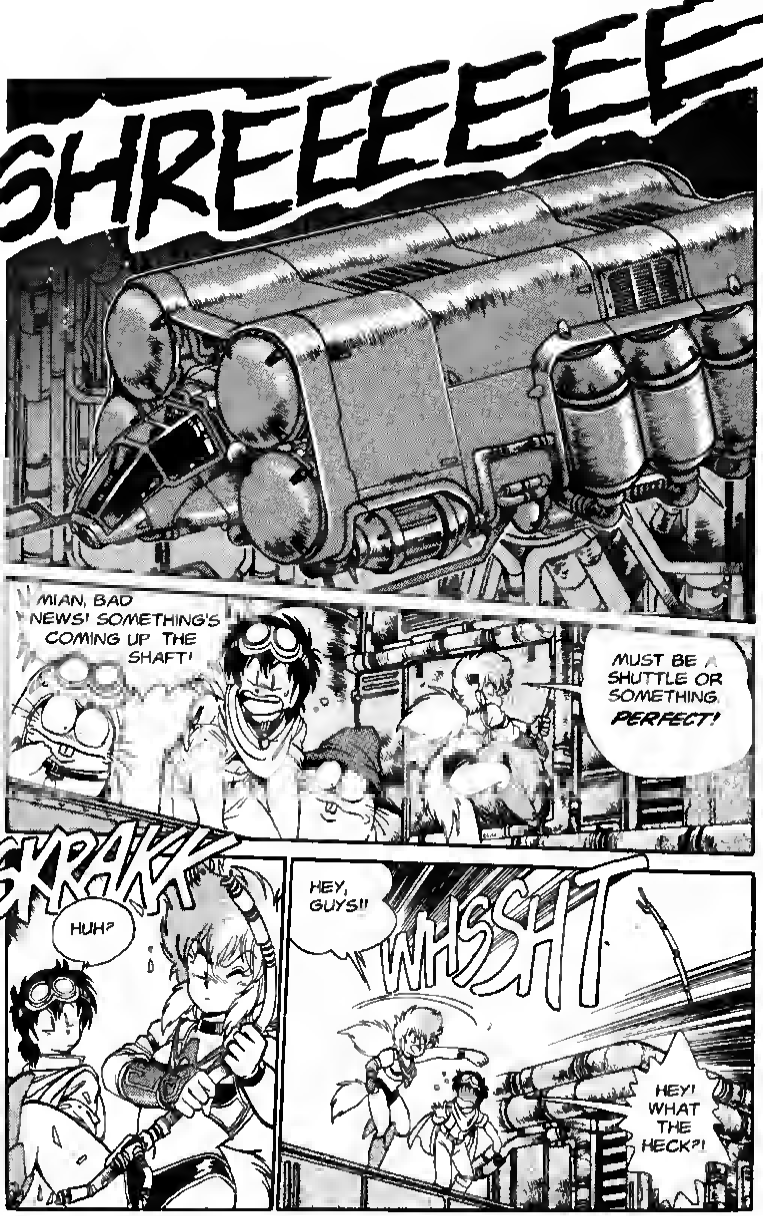
YOU THERE, SOLDIER! I'M TAKING COMMAND, DO YOU HEAR?!
GET OUT OF THE COMMANDER'S SEAT!
ARE YOU DEAF AND DUMB, MAN?! GUARDS! TAKE THIS SCUM TO THE BRIG!
ALWAYS THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND, EH, KESSELRING?!
THAT VOICE..!
NO, IT CAN'T BE--!
SO..HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SINCE WE LAST SPOKE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF?
I'M SO DEEPLY HONORED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

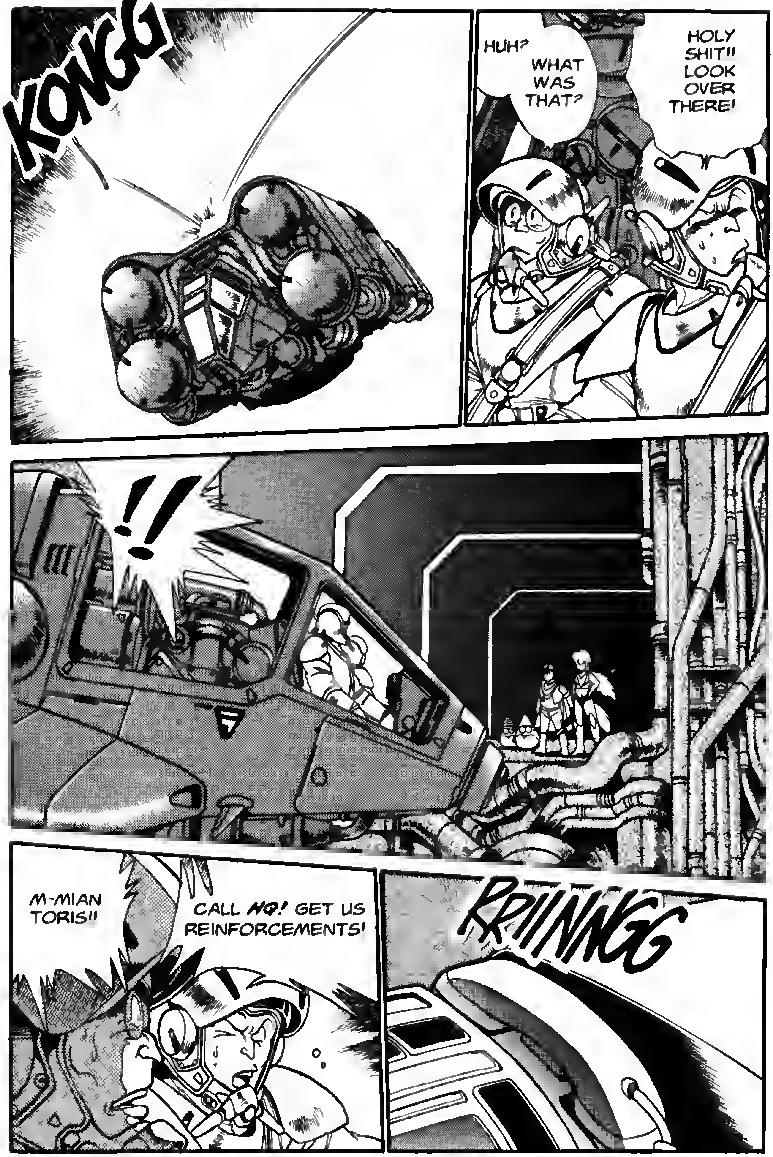
WHAT THE--!
!
ANNOYING, ISN'T IT?
WHY, YOU..
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACCOM-PLISH, YOU FILTHY TRAITOR?!
A TRAITOR? ME?
PERHAPS THE CROWN MAY SEE IT THAT WAY

AS FOR MYSELF, I CONSIDER US TO BE... REFORMERS.
DON'T PLAY WORD GAMES WITH ME!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFY EMPRESS SHION?!
SHE'LL NEVER LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!
AH YES, OUR DEAR EMPRESS...
WE'VE BEEN A LITTLE TOO WILLING TO FOLLOW HER AROUND, KESSELRING
MANSTEIN! HOW DARE YOU--!
TRUE, SHE TOOK OUR MISERABLE LITTLE COUNTRY AND IN A FEW SHORT YEARS MADE IT THE EMPIRE THAT HELGEBARD IS TODAY. I GRANT HER THAT POWER...
...THAT ALL-TOO-FRIGHTENING POWER.
BUT JUST LOOK AT THE EMPIRE SHE HAS BUILT! LOOK AT KYURAWEIL ITSELF!
WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPOSITORY FOR VAST RESERVES OF ENERGY, BURSTING AT THE SEAMS!
AND WHAT FOR?

CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, KESSELRING? YOU, THE CLOSEST AMONG ALL HER CLOSE AIDES?
ALREADY WE'VE GATHERED MORE ENERGY THAN OUR PLANET CAN CONSUME IN TEN THOUSAND YEARS!
AND WHAT OF MIAN TORIS?
WHY IS SHION SO CONCERNED WITH THAT SINGLE GIRL..?
TRUE IT'S TRUE.. THERE ARE TIMES HER MAJESTY'S SUBTLE PLANS DEFY MY OWN POOR UNDERSTANDING...
KNEEL BEFORE HER 700 LONG AND IT'LL BE TOO LATE, KESSELRING!
IF WE LET THAT MADWOMAN CONTROL OUR EMPIRE, BY THE TIME WE FINALLY OPEN OUR EYES WE MAY BE ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
IT'S UP TO US TO STOP HER! WHILE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!
WE MUST TAKE HELGEBARD BACK INTO OUR OWN HANDS!
AND..JUST WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO..?
AREN'T YOU THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF? ALL IT TAKES IS A SINGLE WORD TO THE ARMY..!


NOW WHERE ARE WE? THIS PLACE IS THE WEIRDEST ONE YET.
JEEZ! JUST LOOK HOW FAR DOWN IT GOES!
IT LOOKS LIKE A TRANSIT SHAFT...FROM THE LOWEST LEVELS ALL THE WAY TO THE KEEP.
A TRANSIT SHAFT? OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE--YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SUGGEST CLIMBING UP THIS BOTTOMLESS PIT, ARE YOU?
DON'T BE SILLY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CAN'T JUST WANDER AROUND DOWN HERE FOREVER.
I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
!
SHREE


SHREEEEEE
MIAN, BAD NEWS! SOMETHING'S COMING UP THE SHAFT!
MUST BE A SHUTTLE OR SOMETHING. PERFECT!
SKRAKK
HUH?
HEY, GUYS!!
WHSHT
HEY! WHAT THE HECK?!


KONGG
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?
HOLY SHIT!! LOOK OVER THERE!
!!
M-MIAN TORIS!!
CALL HQ! GET US REINFORCEMENTS!
KRIINGG

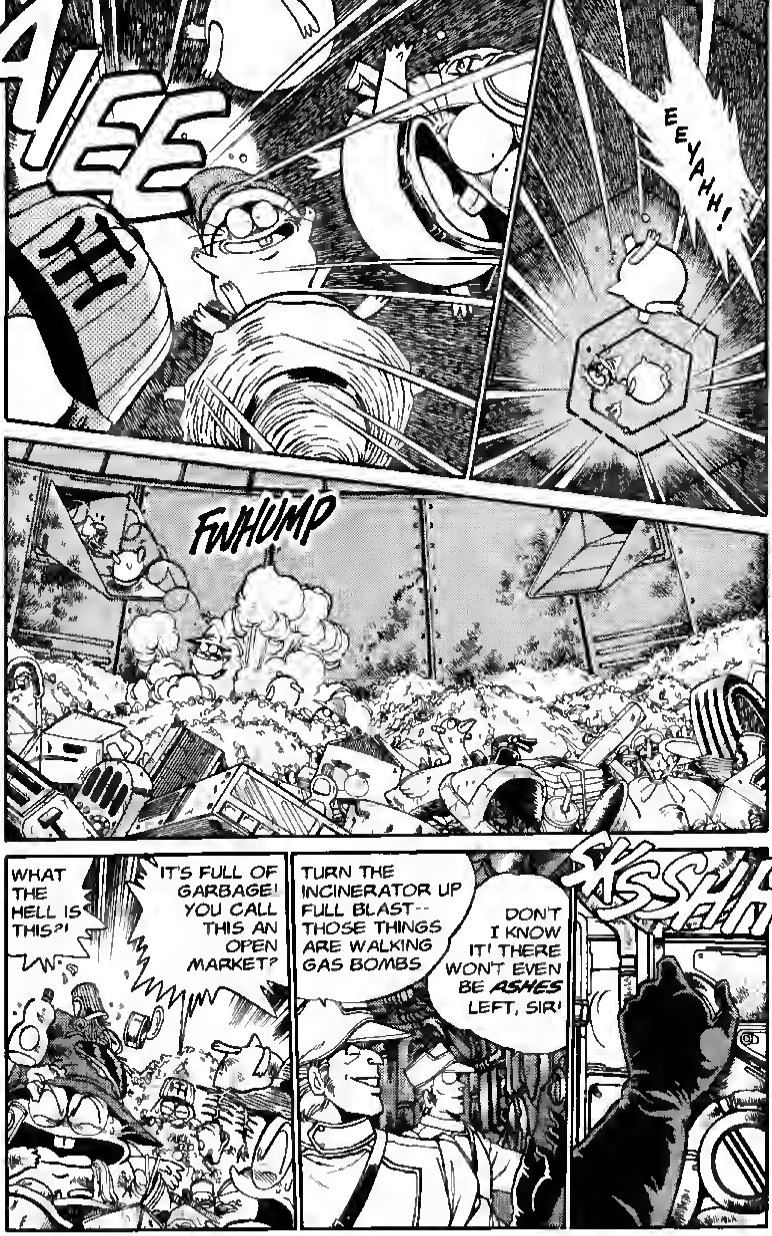
WHAT? YOU CAPTURED MIAN TORIS?!
WITH A DUMB-LOOKING KID AND EIGHT AKOGI?
BUT HOW ON EARTH--?!
.....
.....
HOW AMUSING
SHE THINKS SHE CAN USE US TO GET INTO THE CASTLE. HER OWN HANDY SHORTCUT.
HEH. HOW LIKE THAT WOMAN.
AND SO? WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?
LET HER USE US, EH? BRING HER INTO THE KEEP.
ARE YOU INSANE?! YOU WANT US TO PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF A DANGEROUS, WANTED CRIMINAL?!
COME, COME. THE EMPRESS SAID SHE WANTED MIAN ALIVE, REMEMBER AND YOU ARE IN CHARGE, HERE
ANOTHER MEDAL FOR ME, HMM. ?

GRWN
GRWN
GRWN
YOU DUMMY! WHY'D YOU LET THEM GET US LIKE TH.T?!
I FIGURED YOU'D HIJACK THE SHUTTLE TO GET INTO KYURAWEIL AND NOW LOOK AT US!
HEY, WE'RE GETTING IN, AREN'T WE, SILLY?
I FIGURE THIS KYURAWEIL KEEP PLACE MUST BE CHOCK-FULLA SUCKERS ER, CUSTOMERS.
WE'RE GONNA RAKE IT IN, BOYS!
SO YOU GOT OUR ESCAPE ALL PLANNED, RIGHT?
AN ESCAPE? UH-UH I FIGURED I'D HAVE THEM TAKE US RIGHT TO SHION.
SAY WHAT?
SHION NEEDS ME, WATARU
IT'LL BE SO NICE TO SEE HER AGAIN ♥

WHADDYA FIGURE WE CAN FLOG TO THESE TURKEY SOLDIERS, EH? EH?!
THAT'S CHICKEN FEED, BOY! HOW ABOUT OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS BY APPOINTMENT TO THE EMPRESS?!
YEAH, YEAH! WE'LL TAP RIGHT INTO THIS SHION BABE'S MONEY BAGS!
KSHHAAAAAA
THE EMPRESS SAID TO BRING THEM STRAIGHT TO HER.
THE SHOW'S ALL YOURS, KESSELRING.
PRESENT ARMS!
WHOA!

MOVE IT!
HEY, THAT HURTS! KEEP YOUR MEATHOOKS OFFA ME!
MIAN TORIS! YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS!
KCHAK
OH, GOSH. I'M SO SCARED

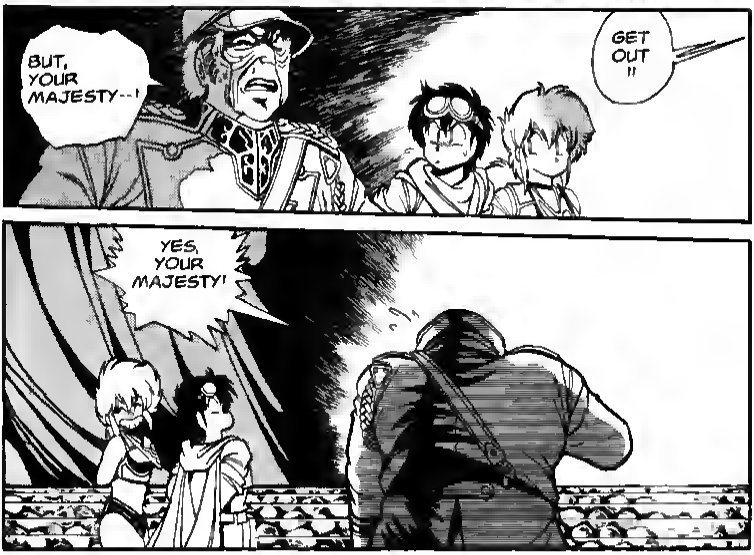
WELCOME TO KYURAWEIL KEEP, YOUNG LADY
I AM ALBERT KESSELRING, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IMPERIAL JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
AS THE COMMANDER OF OUR IMPERIAL ARMY, I TAKE A CERTAIN PLEASURE IN SEEING YOU IN CUSTODY
WE HAVE A LOT OF SCORES TO SETTLE, MY DEAR.
OH MY...SO YOU'RE THE OLD FART IN CHARGE OF THIS GANG OF BOZOS.
YOU SURE LOOK THE PART, PRUNE-FACE.
S-SILENCE, YOU LITTLE FOOL !!
BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULD HAVE YOU SHOT DEAD ON THE SPOT. BUT HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS HERSELF WILL DECIDE YOUR MISERABLE FATES. REJOICE IN THE HONOR!
YOU HEAR THAT, GUYS?! WE'RE DEALING WITH THE EMPRESS HERSELF!
IT'S THE BIG PAYOFF! WE'VE GOT IT MADE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! HER MAJESTY HAS A SPECIAL LOATHING OF YOU AKOG! VERMIN!


AIEE
EEYAHH!
FWHUMP
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
IT'S FULL OF GARBAGE! YOU CALL THIS AN OPEN MARKET?
TURN THE INCINERATOR UP FULL BLAST-- THOSE THINGS ARE WALKING GAS BOMBS
DON'T I KNOW IT! THERE WON'T EVEN BE ASHES LEFT, SIR!
SKSSHH

RETURN

YOUR MAJESTY. FORGIVE ME FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING

I HAVE BROUGHT MIAN TORIS AND HER CO-CONSPIRATOR HERE BEFORE YOU, AS ORDERED.
EXCELLENT WORK, KESSELRING, EXCELLENT.
YOU MAY LEAVE!


BUT, YOUR MAJESTY--!
GET OUT!!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

MIAN!
THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO INTERFERE.
SO YOU CAN CEASE THIS ABSURD ACT.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU PRISONER.
HEH.. THOUGHT YOU'D FIGURE THAT OUT.
SKRAK
AND SO WE MEET AGAIN, WATARU.
IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T MAKE A DECISION, RIGHT TO THE VERY END.
UH, WELL, YEAH, YOU KNOW, GEE, SORTA...
I, UH, I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW ALL THIS COMPLICATED STUFF.
HEY, WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT, WATARU?
BUT YOU *WILL* DECIDE, YOUNG MAN, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT! HERE, IN THIS CHAMBER, YOU WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND MIAN TORIS!
HUH?!
LAY OFF HIM, SHION! I'M *NOT* CHANGING MY MIND! *NO WAY!!*

HEH.. MIAN, MY DEAR, IVE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON CHANGING YOUR STUBBORN LITTLE MIND..
I WILL HAVE YOUR COOPERATION BY FORCE!
I'M HERE TO DESTROY YOU, SHION!
DO YOUR DUTY, BREAKER.

NOW WAIT ONE DOGGONE MINUTE!!
WATARU..?

DON'T TELL ME WE'VE COME THIS FAR AND YOU STILL WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING?!
WHY ARE YOU HIDING THE TRUTH, MIAN?!
BUT... BUT I CAN'T IT'S TOO MUCH.

RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB

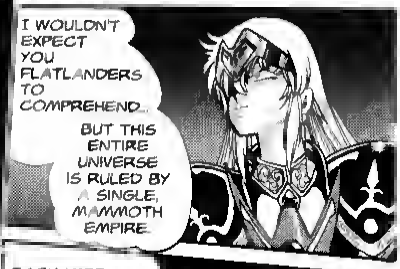
HE'S HERE...
AH, YES THE ARRIVAL OF OUR DEAR CREATOR...
THE CREATOR'S COMING?!
DAMMIT, MIA! WHO THE HELL IS THE CREATOR?! TELL ME!
WATARU, I...
ENOUGH, WATARU. LET ME TELL YOU
BY NOW YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW EVERYTHING!

MIAN, HAVEN'T YOU TOLD WATARU ANYTHING?
NOT ONE LOUSY TEENY-WEENY THING!
OH, YEAH?! AND WHO FALLS ASLEEP AT THE FIRST TWO-SYLLABLE WORD?!
WAAH!
UMMM
AIEEE!! STARS! I'M FALLING!
CALM DOWN, WILL YOU? IT'S JUST A HOLO-PROJECTION OF SHION'S MEMORY.
GEE, WHAT'S THAT BRIGHT THING...?
YAIEEE!! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

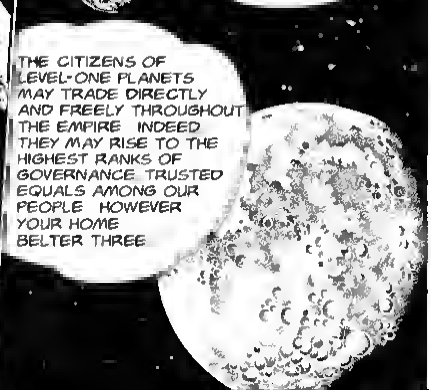
THE IMPERIAN AND THE BREAKER
SHEESH.. WHAT IS ALL THIS?
GALACTIC IMPERIUM STAR SECTOR 4077. BELTER THREE
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MISERABLE MUD BALL WHERE YOU LIVE, WATARU. ON THE DAY I ARRIVED

BKROOM

"GALACTIC IMPERIUM"?
SO SPACE IS FULLA BUG-EYED MONSTERS, HUH?
YEAH, RIGHT!


I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU FLATLANDERS TO COMPREHEND...
BUT THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS RULED BY A SINGLE, MAMMOTH EMPIRE.

EACH IMPERIUM COLONY WORLD IS ASSIGNED A UTILITY LEVEL FROM ONE TO SIXTEEN.
LEVEL ONE IS THE MOST USEFUL. LEVEL ONE PLANETS ARE UNDER DIRECT IMPERIUM JURISDICTION. GRANTED THE RIGHT OF SELF RULE RECEIVING THE FULL MUNIFICENCE OF IMPERIUM PROTECTION


THE CITIZENS OF LEVEL-ONE PLANETS MAY TRADE DIRECTLY AND FREELY THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE. INDEED THEY MAY RISE TO THE HIGHEST RANKS OF GOVERNANCE. TRUSTED EQUALS AMONG OUR PEOPLE. HOWEVER YOUR HOME BELTER THREE

IS A MISERABLE CESSPOOL SCARCELY DESERVING OF A LEVEL SIXTEEN RATING!
SELF-RULE? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. YOUR PLANET HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN ENERGY POOL, TO BE DRAINED OF EVERY RESOURCE ABOVE AND BELOW THE SURFACE
NOW WAIT ONE FREAKIN' MINUTE! NO ONE EVER ASKED US ABOUT THIS!
SHEESH! WE'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOUR DUMB OL' IMPERIUM!
MAYBE YOU WERE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING, MM?
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE JUST SLAVES, MINDLESSLY LABORING FOR THE EMPIRE
THE IMPERIUM DISPATCHES TO PLANETS LIKE YOURS A RULER AND A SMALL DETACHMENT OF PERSONNEL, WITH A MODICUM OF SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY TO HELP THEM SEIZE POWER
THEIR MISSION IS UNIFICATION AND CONTROL OF LEVEL-SIXTEEN COLONY WORLDS.
TO RESHAPE THOSE WORLDS TO MAXIMIZE THEIR ENERGY SUPPLY POTENTIAL

I AM THAT RULER! I AM COMMISSAR ANDROID, SENT TO PERFORM THAT MISSION
MY SISTERS AND I ARE KNOWN AS IMPERIANS.
SO YOU'RE AN ANDROID, TOO...
SOMEHOW I'M NOT SURPRISED...
I MEAN YOU AND MIAN ARE REALLY JUST LIKE EACH OTHER.
SHION'S LIKE ME?!
DON'T ASK ME TO PUT A FINGER ON IT, IT'S JUST...
"TWO OF A KIND," YOU KNOW?
HEH.. YOU AND I, TWO OF A KIND.
I WOULD HAVE CALLED US... NATURAL ENEMIES
WHAT AN HONOR.

EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN
I USED MY ABILITIES TO THE FULLEST I TOOK HELGEBARD IN HAND, MADE IT AN EMPIRE, BROUGHT THE ENTIRE PLANET TO HEEL.
I ESTABLISHED MY BASE HERE IN KYURAWEIL AND BEGAN TO EXPAND ENERGY PRODUCTION, BUILDING UP OUR RESERVES
ALL GOING WELL, THAT IS, UNTIL I LEARNED THAT THERE WERE *OTHERS* ON BELTER THREE! OTHERS SENT TO WATCH OVER ME!
"BREAKERS"
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEM *CIRCUIT BREAKERS.* TERMINATOR ANDROIDS RUN BY THE IMPERIUM'S INTERNAL CONTROL/DISCIPLINE COMMAND!!

FIVE BREAKERS, SENT IN STRICTEST SECRECY TO MONITOR EACH IMPERIAN ANDROID.
THE BREAKERS HAVE BUT A SINGLE ORDER-- IF AN IMPERIAN DEFIES THE WILL OF THE IMPERIUM, TERMINATE HER!
THAT'S RIGHT, SHION! AND YOUR TERMINATION ORDER HAS BEEN SENT!
THAT'S WHY I WAS ACTIVATED!

GOOD LORD.. THERE'S FIVE OF YOU?!
YEAH, FIVE COPIES.
THIS COULD BE HEAVEN, THIS COULD BE HELL..
SO YOU RAN SCARED.
YOU WERE AFRAID THAT YOU'D BE TERMINATED AND A NEW IMPERIAN SENT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE
I WAS RATIONAL!
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO BE TERMINATED.
MY GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES ARE IMPECCABLE!
THEN WHY DID THE BREAKER FUNCTION KICK IN? I'LL TELL YOU WHY..

BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED TOO MUCH IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES!
YOU TRIED TO BREAK AWAY FROM IMPERIUM CONTROL.
YOU'VE RUN WILD, SHION!!
STILL, I HAVE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT.
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR DESIGN PARAMETERS, BUT YOU FOUND A WAY TO HACK INTO THE BREAKER SYSTEM
AND TO ELIMINATE THE BREAKERS THEMSELVES ALL OF THEM EXCEPT ME!
YOU MANAGED TO HIDE YOUR ACTIONS FROM THE IMPERIUM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHILE YOU SET YOUR HOUNDS ON MY TAIL.
AND ALL THE WHILE, YOU WERE PLOTTING TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE IMPERIUM FOREVER!

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE UNDER IMPERIUM CONTROL, A LOYAL PUPPET!
IT'S MY RIGHT TO DECIDE HOW I LIVE!
SHION, WE'RE NOT HUMAN, YOU AND I
WE'RE ANDROIDS, CREATED TO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE IMPERIUM.
THEN WHY DID THEY MAKE US JUST LIKE THEM! TELL ME THAT!
WHY DID THE CREATOR GIVE US A SOUL?!
IT DID THAT TO US AND THEN DENIES US THE FREEDOM TO LIVE AS WE PLEASE!

IF WE WERE HUMAN, THEY'D CALL US SLAVES...
I WILL NOT BE A SLAVE!
WATARU!
HUH?! YES, MA'AM ?!
IF I CAN FREE MYSELF FROM IMPERIAL CONTROL, I WILL NEVER LET THEM TOUCH YOUR PLANET, NEVER!
I HAVE THAT POWER
BUT IT IS MIAN WHO IS TRYING TO STOP ME
SHE'S AN AGENT OF THE IMPERIUM, HERE TO KEEP YOU ON THEIR LEASH FOREVER!

RIGHT IS ON MY SIDE, WATARU!
IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, STEP ASIDE! WITNESS THE END OF A BREAKER!
HUH ?
I WILL NEED YOU, WATARU LATER..
THE HELL I WILL!
WHAT ?!
I..I'M NOT SMART OR NOTHIN... I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS STUFF..
BUT I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY MIAN! NEVER!
WATARU, IT'S OKAY! STEP ASIDE!
YOU SHUT YOUR TRAP!
GRR!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
WHEN I SAY MOVE IT, YOU MOVE IT! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
THE HELL IT AIN'T!

I...I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, DAMN IT!
I finally said it..
SHHH-
W-WHAT?
YOU'RE A SHORT-TEMPERED, SELF-CENTERED, VIOLENT LITTLE BRAT
SMACKING ME AROUND, GIVING ME HELL, BUT STILL
GASP-
HHHH-
I LOVE YOU, MIAN TORIS...

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO STAND BY AND WATCH YOU FIGHT TO THE DEATH..?!
WATARU...
I DID IT! WHAT A LINE! WHAT A DELIVERY! WHAT A GUY!
YOU KNUCKLEHEAD!! I'M NOT EVEN HUMAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, FALLING IN LOVE WITH AN ANDROID?!
HEY, IT HAPPENED! GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
IT'S NOT, LIKE, I MEAN, A PROBLEM, IT'S JUST THAT..
I-LOVE-YOU!!
YOU FOOL...

HEH HEH HEH.
HA HA HA HA!!
MIAN! IT SEEMS WE *ARE* DIFFERENT! THE CREATOR DIDN'T GIVE YOU A SOUL AFTER ALL!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ONLY BROUGHT WATARU ALONG TO FULFILL YOUR MISSION!
G-GREAT! C-CAUSE *I'LL* FIGHT YOU INSTEAD!
I PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOUR EXEMPLARY LOYALTY, MIAN
OF COURSE, I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU TERMINATE ME
FZZK
Y-MEAN SHE'S GONNA LAY HER EGG INSIDE ME--?!
I'M NOT AN *ALIEN*, YOU KNOTHEAD!

MIAN, WHAT..
FWP
FORGIVE ME, WATARU..
BUT THIS IS MY MISSION!
MIAN..
B-BEAT HER YOU- YOU GOTTA WIN..
HEY, NO PROB, DEAR!
DONE WITH YOUR GOOD-BYES, MIAN?!

WHSST
SHKKK
DON'T PUSH THAT OLD BODY OF YOURS TOO HARD, SHION.
AN IMPERIAN CAN'T BEAT A BREAKER!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...

SKRANG
TIME TO DIE !!
WHAT ?!
YOUR RESPONSE SPEED WAS 0.0002 SECONDS TOO SLOW.
YOU'VE LOST YOUR EDGE, MIAN.

MIAN, DON'T DIE...
I DON'T CARE IF YOU LOSE I DON'T CARE IF SHION'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU JUST DON'T DIE
WHSSH
UWHIP

KRAN GGG
MY, MY, MY... IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO, MIAN?
SPAKAK
HNNK...!

SHE'S TOO STRONG!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... NO IMPERIAN CAN OUTFIGHT A BREAKER!
IT'S BEEN FUN, MIAN BUT I HAVE MUCH TO DO TODAY, SO...

MI-
MIAN!!!
NOW I'M REALLY MAD!
ARGH!

MIAN! SURRENDER! SHE'LL KILL YOU!!
HEY, DON'T WORRY!
I'M AN ANDROID, REMEMBER?!
HEH.
ON YOUR FEET, MIAN.
CHOK

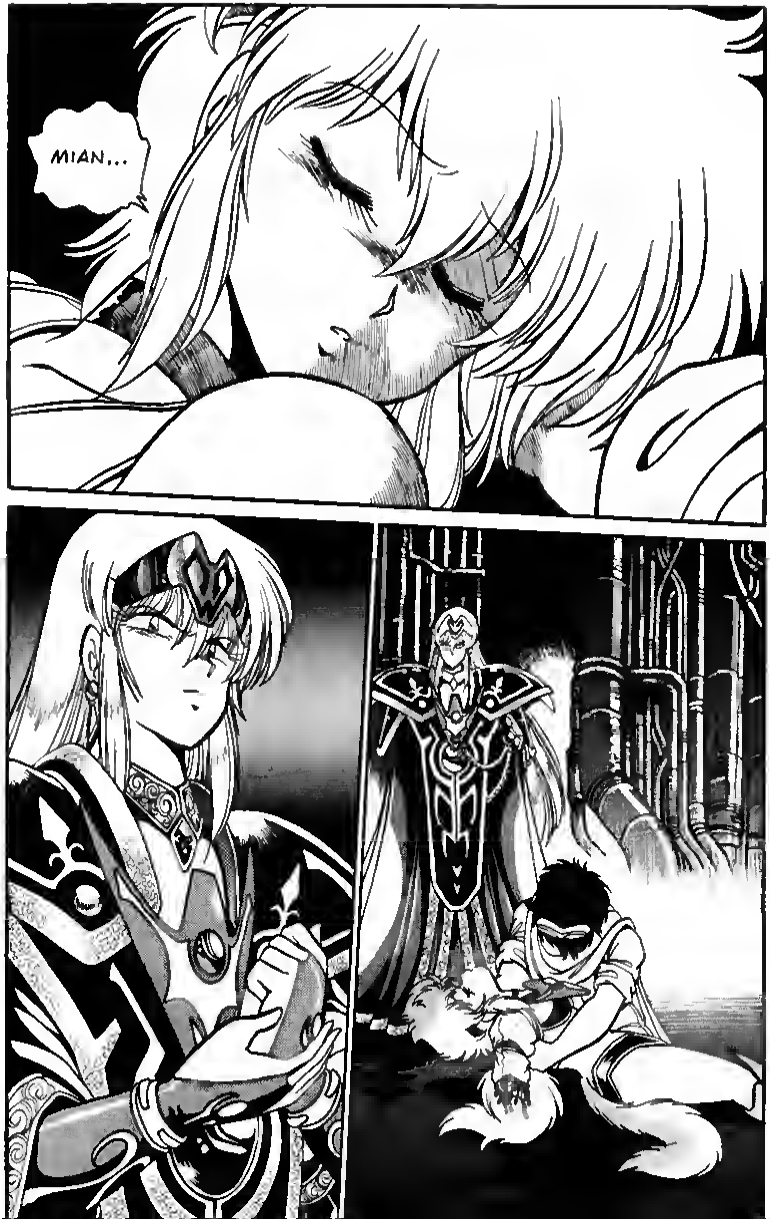
WHOO
OH, GOD... MIAN!!
HNN..!
D.. DAMN IT!
IT'S TIME... TO SAY GOOD-BYE!

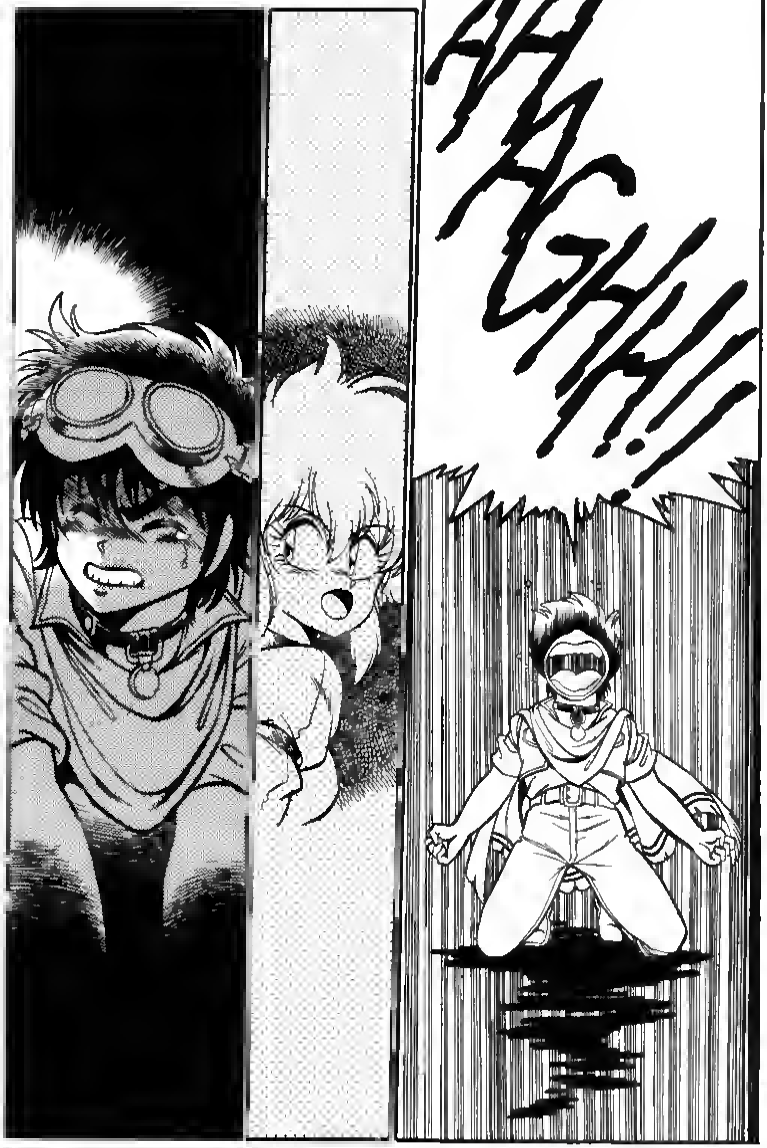
DON'T! SHION, PLEASE!
DON'T!!

MARIONETTE

WATARU..
MIAN
THIS CAN'T..

MIAN ?
BE HAPPENING !!
MIAN!!
THIS IS JUST A JOKE, RIGHT? RIGHT?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO STRONG, SO TOUGH!
MIAN! OPEN YOUR EYES, DAMMIT!


MIAN...


AAAGH!!!

GOD DAMN YOU, YOU BITCH! WHY'D YOU KILL HER ?!
YOU'D ALREADY WON! YOU KNEW IT!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO HACK HER TO PIECES LIKE THAT?!
ROTTEN BITCH !!
HYAAH!!

!!
WHRD!

I'LL WARN YOU JUST ONCE-- NEVER TURN A SWORD AGAINST ME AGAIN.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?!
SHIT WHY AM I SUCH A GODDAMN WEAKLING ?
YOU. BRING HER AND FOLLOW ME

W-WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER?
YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS GOING TO HELP ME CARRY OUT MY PLAN
YOU SAW THEM?
THEY'RE CYBORGS, MADE OUT OF MY SERVANTS.
THEY DON'T SPEAK, THEY DON'T THINK. THEY JUST FOLLOW MY ORDERS TO THE DEATH MY FAITHFUL AUTOMATONS.
MIAN WAS LIKE THAT, TOO, YOU KNOW
SHE HAD NO REAL WILL OF HER OWN. SHE JUST BLINDLY CARRIED OUT THE CREATOR'S ORDERS...
SHE ONLY FOUGHT ME BECAUSE SHE WAS PROGRAMMED TO. SHE HAD NO REASON... NOT FOR ANYTHING
BUT I--I AM DIFFERENT!
I HAVE WON MY INDEPENDENCE I JUDGE FOR MYSELF I ACT FOR MYSELF
MIAN'S NO PUPPET ON A STRING!

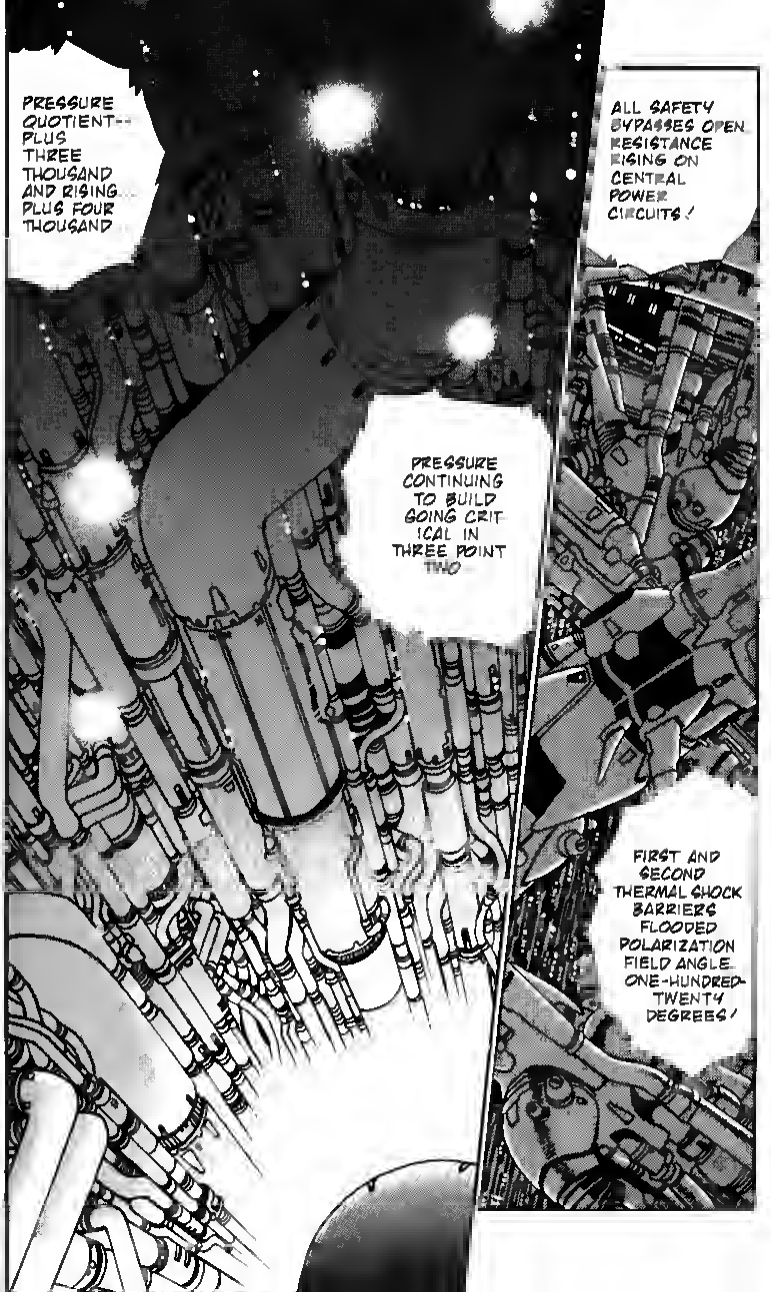
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS AN ANDROID! NOT ONCE, UNDERSTAND?!
WHEN SHE WAS TRAVELLING WITH US, ME AND BABO, SHE WAS JUST LIKE A NORMAL GIRL!
SHE MAY HAVE PLAYED ROUGH SOMETIMES, BUT SHE WAS MORE HUMAN THAN ANYONE ELSE I'VE EVER KNOWN!
POOR BOY, YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING...
WHAT ON EARTH?
SHUT UP!
YOU THINK I COULD HAVE LOVED HER, HAD IT BEEN ANY OTHER WAY?!
BURN CYCLE COMPLETE DAMPERS CLOSED
THEY'RE BLACKER THAN A SMOKED CIGAR BY NOW.
MAN, IT TAKES A PLASMA INCINERATOR TO STOP THOSE AKOGI ROACHES!
YEAH.. NO WONDER THE EMPRESS HATES THEM.

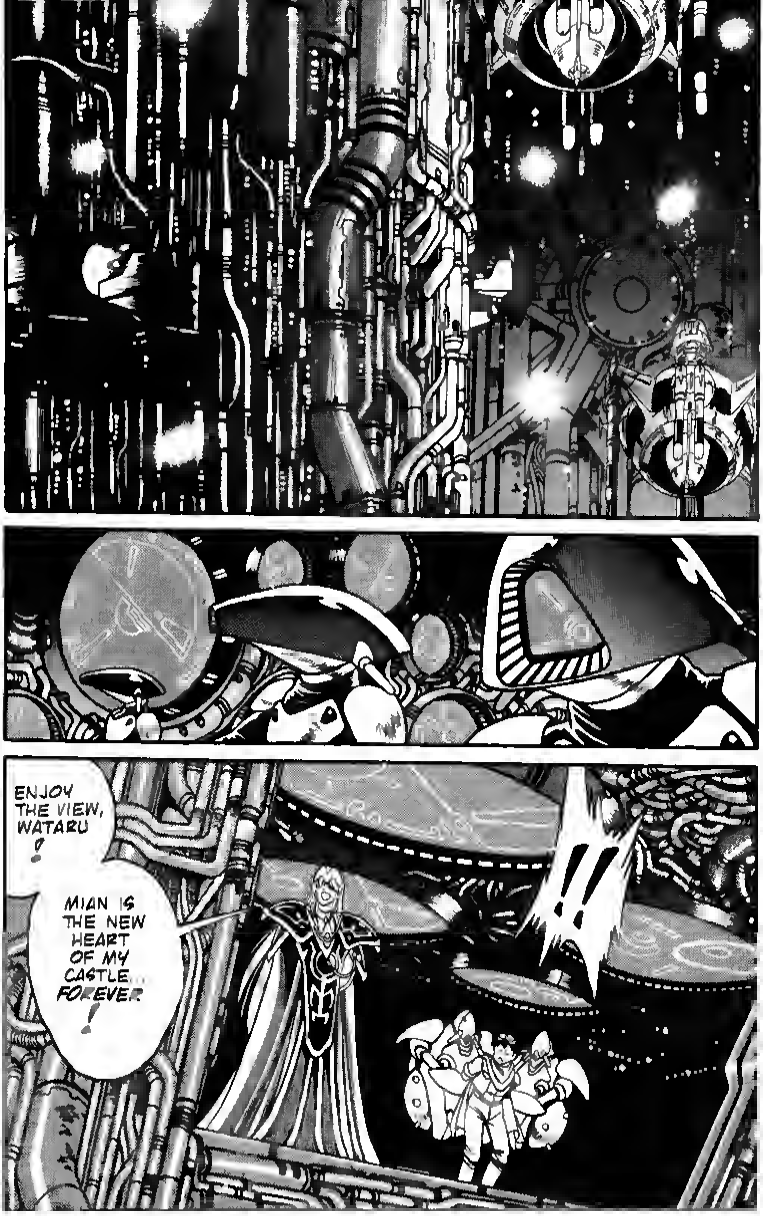
HEY.. WHAT'S THAT SINGING ?
THE LOWLIEST WORM...
THE GREASIEST SLIMEBALL...
IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE THE INCINERATOR!
BEEP
IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE...
A BABE AHAG...
ALL OF THEM, ALL OF THEM, LOVELY CUSTOMERS!!
HI-HO, THE CUSTOMER IS GOD!
S-SIR! WHY ..HOW THEY'RE TOTALLY UNTOUCHED.
HEY HO! HEY HO!
JUST ANOTHER MYSTERY FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, SON..

MAN OH MAN, WHAT A TAN!
DRAT! I'M PEELING!
YEE HEE HEE! THIS IS KINDA FUN!
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT!!
WHY?! HOW CAN YOU STILL BE ALIVE?! IT WAS SIX THOUSAND DEGREES IN THERE!!
TA-DAAH
THE SECRET POWER OF THE AKOG!-- THE GALAXY'S THICKEST SKINS!
YOUR HATS! WHY NOT YOUR HATS?!
POOR TWISTED FOOL! NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE AKOG! HAT!
WE KEEP ALL OUR ASSETS GLUED TO OUR NOGGIN!
NO WAY THAT BABY'S GONNA BURN!
RED PEN
RECEIPTS
DEPOSIT BOOK
WALLET
INSURANCE POLICIES
KRUGERRAND
CREDIT CARDS
NOT BAD, HUH, GUYS?!
WE'RE ALL DOOMED. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.
HEE HEE HEE

RUMBBBBB
WHAT'S THAT RUMBLE?! THE EARTH'S SHAKING!
IT'S TOO LONG FOR AN EARTHQUAKE
WHA-?!
KYURAWEIL KEEP! IT'S GLOWING !!

RRMMMBBB
RRMMMBBB


PRESSURE QUOTIENT-- PLUS THREE THOUSAND AND RISING... PLUS FOUR THOUSAND...
PRESSURE CONTINUING TO BUILD GOING CRIT-ICAL IN THREE POINT TWO
ALL SAFETY BYPASSES OPEN. RESISTANCE RISING ON CENTRAL POWER CIRCUITS!
FIRST AND SECOND THERMAL SHOCK BARRIERS FLOODED. POLARIZATION FIELD ANGLE ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY DEGREES!


ENJOY THE VIEW, WATARU!
MIAN IS THE NEW HEART OF MY CASTLE... FOREVER!
!!

MIAN...
LOOK AT HER BREAST-PLATE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER ?!
THAT'S RIGHT THE BLACK SPHERE YOU KEPT WITH YOU ALL THAT TIME FOR ME
WHEN DID YOU
WHAT IS THAT THING ?!
WHAT THE HELL ?! IT'S--

MY PLANS REQUIRE MIAN'S GREAT INTERNAL ENERGY
THAT'S WHAT BREAKERS DO-- THEY LET THEIR ENERGY RUN OUT OF CONTROL, DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH
BUT...BUT WOULDN'T THAT DESTROY THE BREAKER, TOO?
I IMAGINE SO AFTER ALL, SHE HAS POWER ENOUGH TO BLOW THIS FORTRESS TO DUST
BUT OF COURSE THE CREATOR ALSO DEVISED A WAY TO CONTROL THAT ENERGY
IT'S THOSE CRYSTAL SPHERES-- THOSE SPHERES IN ALL OUR BREASTPLATES
SO YOU HAD DOCTOR KOCOHM MAKE A SPHERE THAT YOU COULD CONTROL INSTEAD OF THE CREATOR?!
VERY GOOD, WATARU THAT'S WHY I GAVE IT TO YOU
TOUGH LUCK, SWEETHEART YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LISTEN TO YOU, DID YOU?
IT WAS A GAMBLE AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW MIAN WOULD BE SUCH A PUSHOVER.

BUT SHE WAS... THANKS TO YOU, DEAR WATARU. IT WAS HER EXPERIENCES WITH YOU THAT SHOOK HER SENSE OF MISSION.
YOU TAUGHT HER TO DOUBT.
I.. HUH ?
JUST THINK, WATARU THOSE DOUBTS THAT YOU CREATED ERODED HER BREAKER COMBAT SKILLS THEY KILLED HER.
.....
.....
THE PROBLEM IS.. HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED? SHE WASN'T BUILT WITH A HEART..
PREPARE TO ENERGIZE !

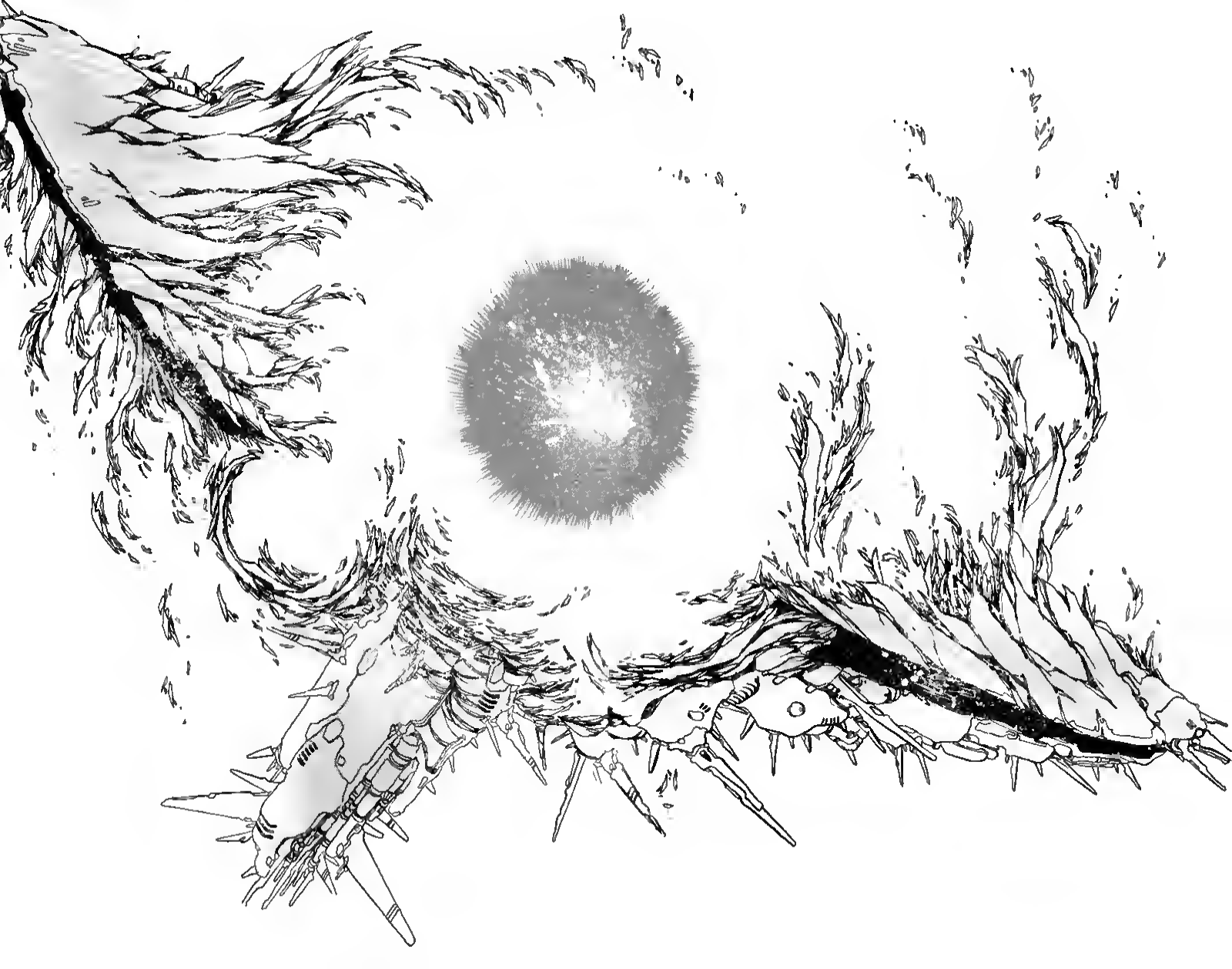
CONTROL SYSTEMS NOMINAL! PRESSURE STILL RISING!
CRITICAL LIMITS EXCEEDED FACTOR 04 FINAL PROGRAM RUNNING NOW!
POLARIZATION FIELD ADJUSTMENT COMPLETE! THIRTY SECONDS TO FULL DISCHARGE THRESHOLD!
VRNN VRNN VRNN
COUNTING FROM SIXTY... NOW!
FIFTY-NINE...
FIFTY-EIGHT...

THE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP OF THE GALACTIC IMPERIUM OF RA
IF WE DON'T STOP HER SHE'LL BE BACK EVERY THREE YEARS TO SUCK ALL THE ENERGY FROM YOUR WORLD

TARGET LOCK, SOLID!
LIGHT-SOURCE ERROR ADJUSTMENT AZIMUTH 0.0003!
IT'S, IT'S HUGE! HOW CAN YOU...
WE HAVE ALL THAT ENERGY WATARU COLLECTED STORED IF WE CAN JUST REDIRECT IT...
AND ADD THE POWER OF MIAN'S BODY!
HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY! THIS SINGLE BLOW SHALL SET US ALL FREE!

FIRE !!
RRRNNN
6...
5...
4...
3...
2...
1...

ZZAKK



MIAN'S LAST REQUEST

HEH...

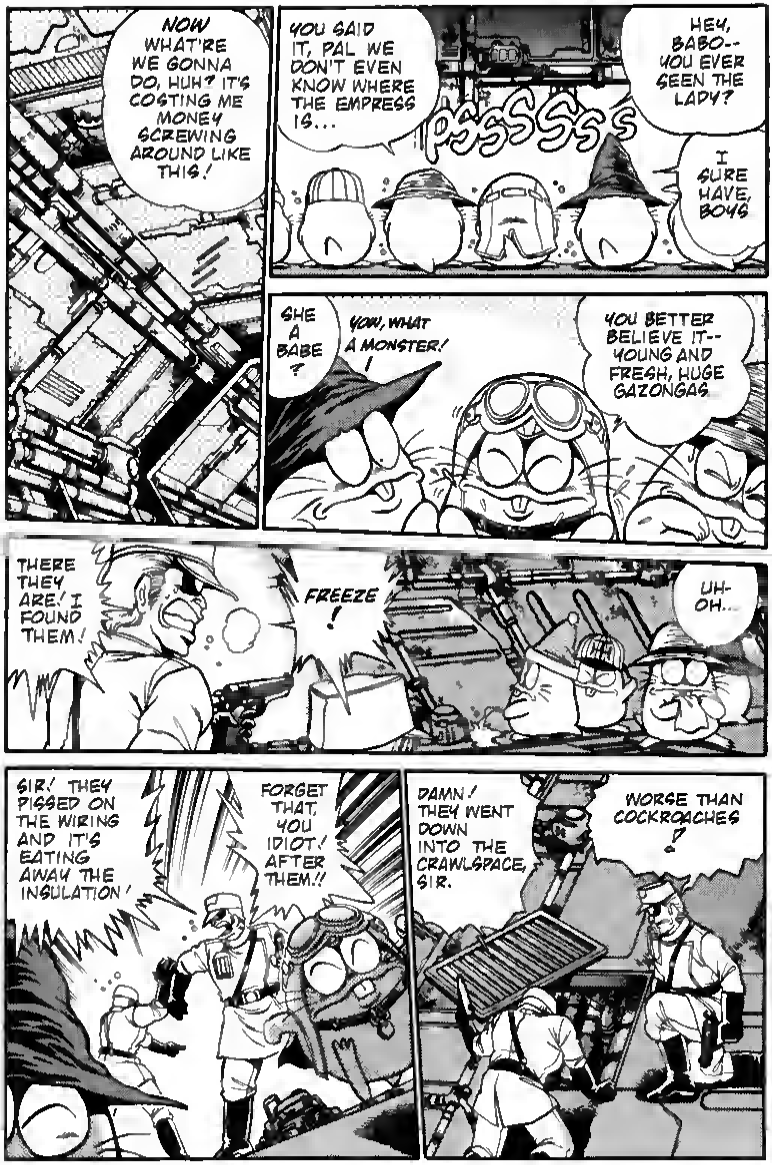
HEH HEH HEH
HEH HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
KHARAB
BEHOLD MY POWER!
NOW NO ONE CAN STOP ME! NO ONE!!

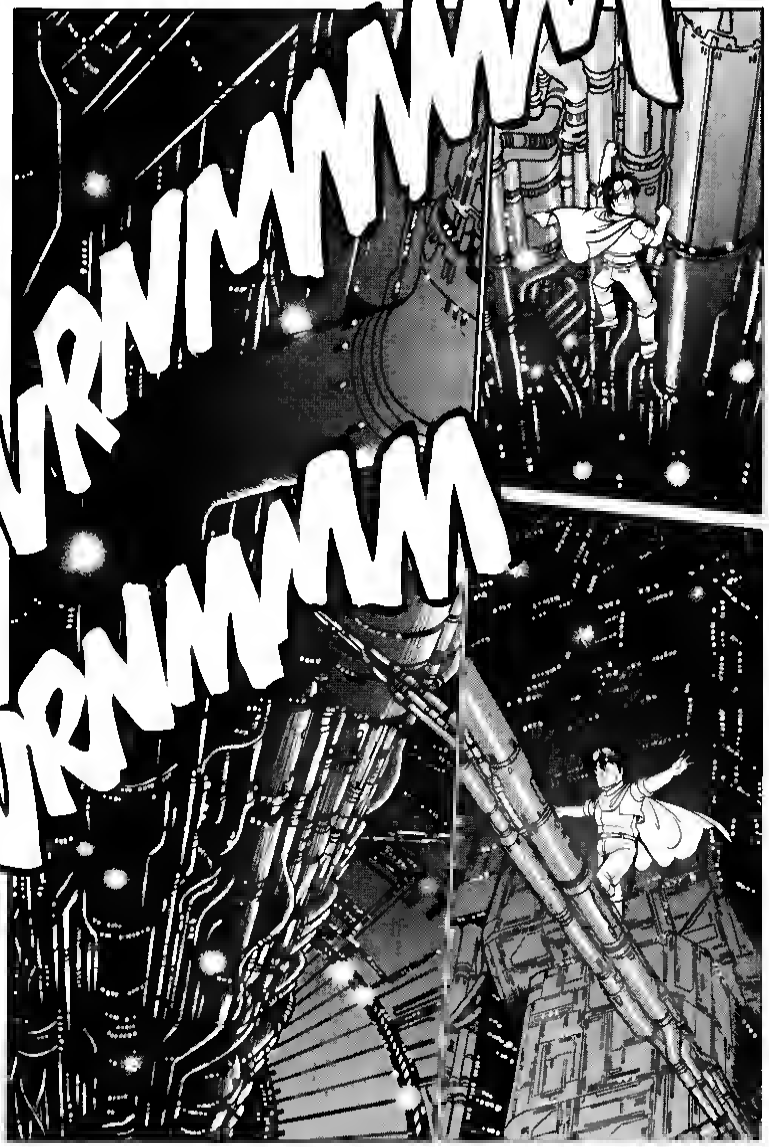
STOP!
YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU WANTED!
NOW GIVE MIAN BACK TO ME! I CAN'T LEAVE HER LIKE THAT!
ALL I WANTED? DON'T BE A FOOL.
YOU THINK IT'S FINISHED JUST BECAUSE I'VE VAPORIZED A SINGLE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP?
NO. MIAN SHALL REMAIN WHERE SHE IS--THE ETERNAL GUARDIAN OF THIS WORLD!
THE IMPERIUM SHOULD REALIZE HER POWER NOW AND LEAVE US BE
MY ASPIRATIONS ARE MODEST, WATARU DEAR I JUST WISH TO HAVE CONTROL OF MY OWN FATE
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LITTLE DREAM REQUIRES MASSIVE MILITARY POWER
...ENOUGH POWER TO DEFY THE ENTIRE RA IMPERIUM.
WHAT?!

SO LET ME TEACH YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING
MIAN'S BEEN REBUILT SHE CAN ONLY SUSTAIN HER INTERNAL ENERGY FLOW THROUGH HER LINKAGE TO KYURAWEIL KEEP
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY MIAN CAN STAY ALIVE. NOW AND FOREVER
SHE'S ALIVE?! MIAN'S STILL ALIVE?!!
INDEED-- DOES THAT PLEASE YOU?
BUT SHE WILL NEVER COME BACK TO YOU, NEVER RETURN TO YOUR ARMS GIVE HER UP BOY
WATARU, THERE IS A LOT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU. WHAT KIND OF JOURNEY DID YOU HAVE WITH MIAN? WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?
WH-WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?
AH. BUT I DO, WATARU. MIAN HAD SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM ME, SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND
SHE WAS JUST A BREAKER, BUT EVEN SO I HAVE TO KNOW

"I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE TO SAY YOUR MISERABLE FAREWELL. AFTER ALL, I DOUBT YOU'LL EVER SEE YOUR MIAN AGAIN..."
DAMN IT ALL...
WHY DID IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?!
ドゥーン
!!
WHAT THE HELL?! LEMME GO!
I SAID GET OFF, YOU RAT BASTARD!
OKAY--YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

WHRAK


NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, HUH? IT'S COSTING ME MONEY SCREWING AROUND LIKE THIS!
YOU SAID IT, PAL WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE EMPRESS IS...
PSSSSSS
HEY, BABO-- YOU EVER SEEN THE LADY?
I SURE HAVE, BOYO
SHE A BABE?
WOW, WHAT A MONSTER!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT-- YOUNG AND FRESH, HUGE GAZONGAS
THERE THEY ARE! I FOUND THEM!
FREEZE!
UH-OH...
SIR! THEY PISSED ON THE WIRING AND IT'S EATING AWAY THE INSULATION!
FORGET THAT, YOU IDIOT! AFTER THEM!!
DAMN! THEY WENT DOWN INTO THE CRAWLSPACE, SIR.
WORSE THAN COCKROACHES!


VRNMMMMM
VRNMMMMM

VRRR

AI YI YI!!
B-BETTER A WIMP THAN DEAD
A PLANET OF MY OWN ALL MY OWN! NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME I AM TRULY A RULER, THE UNCHALLENGED RULER OF BELTER THREE!

I WILL TURN THIS WORLD INTO A SINGLE MIGHTY STATE, AN ALL-POWERFUL NATION!!
EVEN IF IT TAKES ME HUNDREDS NO, THOUSANDS OF YEARS!
I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD! MY WORLD!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
KTAK
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE TODAY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ORDER THE ARREST OF EMPRESS SHION CLARIS!
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF HELGEBARD YOUR HIGHNESS, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETIRE.
WE, AH REQUEST THAT YOU ACCOMPANY US.
GULP
HEH...
YOU ARREST ME? HOW AMUSING.
GET OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT!!
WHILE I'M STILL IN THE MOOD TO LET YOU LIVE...
YOUR HIGHNESS!!

IF YOU WILL NOT GO OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL, WE ARE PREPARED TO USE FORCE!
KCHAK
KCHAK
I SEE.
ALL THE LITTLE RATS HAVE THEIR TAILS IN A ROW
AND WHO IS THE GRAND CONSPIRATOR BEHIND THIS FARCE? YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS FOR IT, KESSELRING!
HNNG!

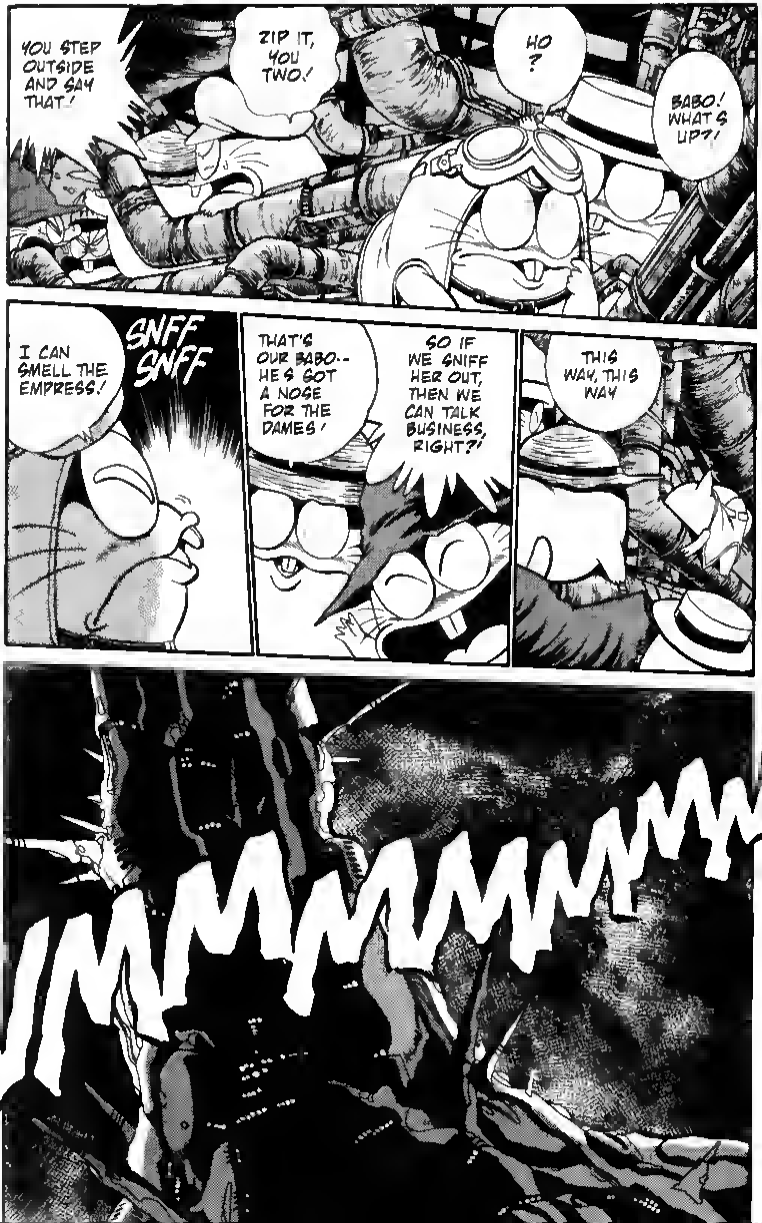
GO SPEAK UP LIKE A MAN, WHOEVER YOU--
WHA--?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!
KTUMP
KTUMP
KTUMP
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY BODY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!
MY ENERGY FLOW IS FLUCTUATING IMPOSSIBLE!
KTUMP
KTUMP
BUT I FEEL IT!
DOWN TO MY VERY HEART-BEAT...
KTUMP
KTUMP

WELL, WELL-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WELL, EMPRESS SHION?
MANSTEIN... YOU!
ALL RIGHT, KESSELRING!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
YOUR HIGHNESS, FORGIVE ME
I'M ONLY, I... I'M...
YOUR DEAR GENERAL IS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND JOINT CHIEF UNDER MY COMMAND!
HE IS NO LONGER YOUR CAT'S PAW, YOUR MAJESTY
I SEE SO YOU'RE THE RINGLEADER!
YOUR ERA IS PASSING, EMPRESS SHION
ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR BODY, EH?

A GOOD ANDROID, MY DEAR EMPRESS, ALWAYS NEEDS THE SUPERVISION OF HER MASTER.
THE ENERGY FLOWS IN THAT FINE BODY OF YOURS WERE ACTUALLY CONTROLLED BY THE CREATOR'S OWN MOTHER SYSTEM
THE MOTHER SYSTEM ABOARD THE IMPERIUM ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP THAT YOU DESTROYED!
N-NONSENSE!
HOW COULD THE LIKES OF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS?!
WHY SIMPLE OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION
AND, IT SEEMS THERE WAS A SCIENTIST--PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER HIM--WHO SCANNED THE BODY OF MIAN TORIS
WE BURNED HIS RESEARCH LAB TO THE GROUND AS YOU ORDERED BUT IT SEEMS THAT, SOMEHOW, HIS DATA BANKS WERE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED..
WE ANALYZED THAT DATA TO LEARN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANDROID MIAN TORIS.

I DOUBT A BREAKER AND AN IMPERIAN ARE ALL THAT DIFFERENT, EH ?!
YOU'RE A FAR LESS SOPHISTICATED ANDROID THAN YOU THOUGHT, EMPRESS!
AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, YOU'RE JUST A MACHINE !!
DAMN YOU!!!

BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
DAGNABBIT! IT'S A TIGHT FIT DOWN HERE!
YOU AIN'T KIDDING!
WHAT DODO TOLD US TO HIDE DOWN HERE, EH?!
YOU UNGRATEFUL KNUCKLEHEADS! THEY'D'VE CAUGHT US WITHOUT ME!
BETTER CAUGHT THAN TRAPPED LIKE AN AKOGI IN A PRICE-FIXING CARTEL!

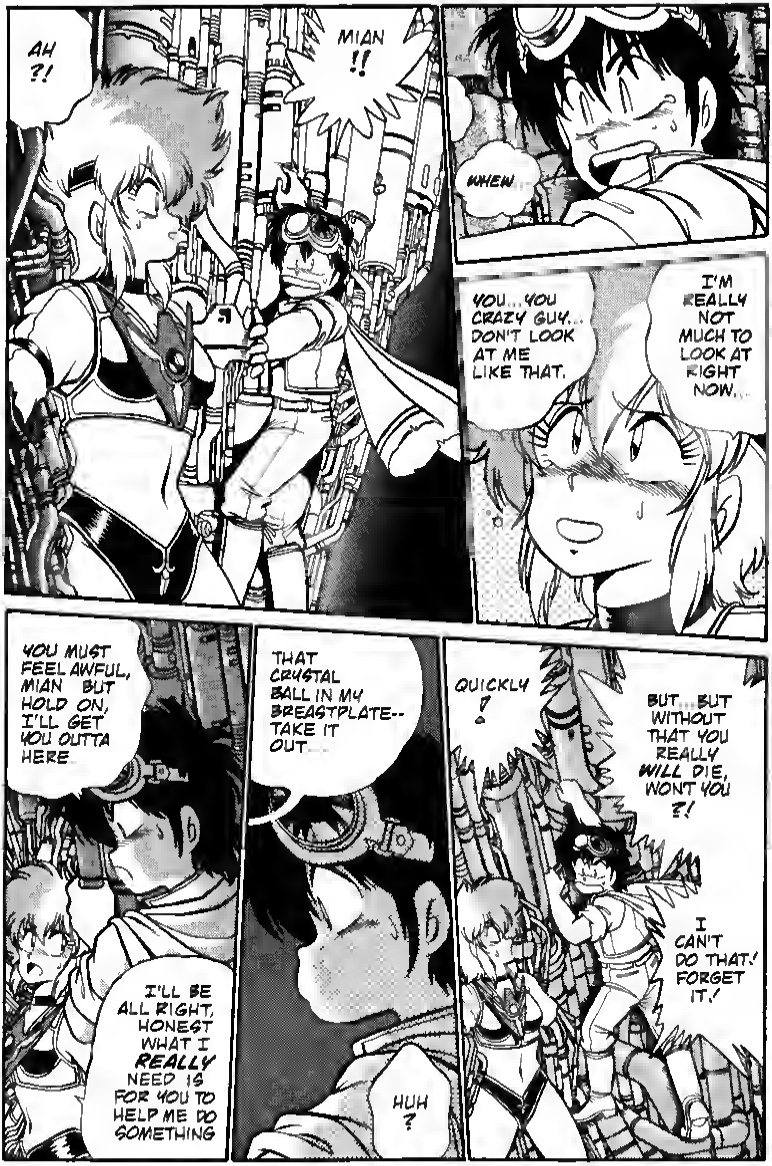

YOU STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT!
ZIP IT, YOU TWO!
HO?
BABO! WHAT'S UP?!
I CAN SMELL THE EMPRESS!
SNFF SNFF
THAT'S OUR BABO-- HE'S GOT A NOSE FOR THE DAMES!
SO IF WE SNIFF HER OUT, THEN WE CAN TALK BUSINESS, RIGHT?!
THIS WAY, THIS WAY
VMMMMMMMMMM

DID THAT DO IT?
IS SHE DEAD? THE EMPRESS SHION REALLY DEAD?
CAN'T BE TOO CERTAIN, CAN WE?
AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A FEARSOME CREATURE
WHOAK
LET'S JUST BLOW HER BRAINS OUT FOR GOOD MEASURE

THUK
SKRNGHH
H--
HELP
ME...

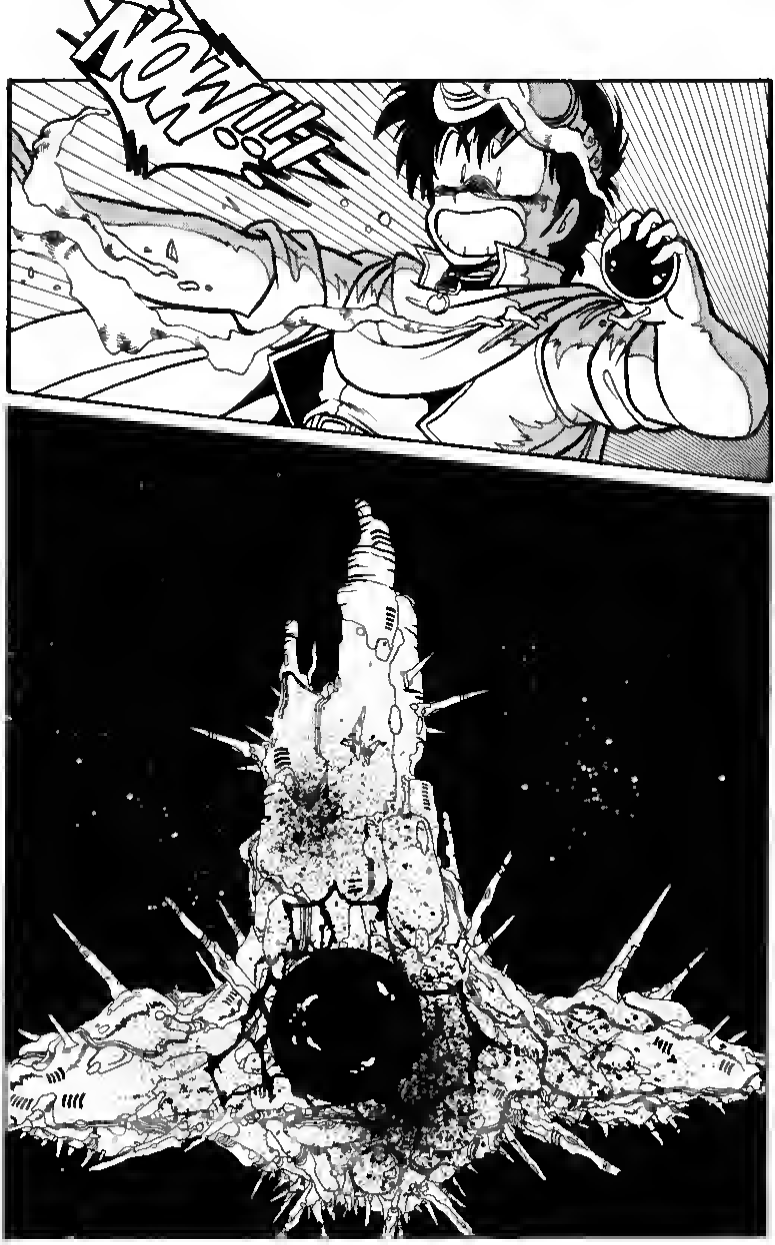
SKCCH
HLK!
MY GOD!
MANSTEIN!?

VMMMMM
VMMMMM
VMMMMM
HAHH
SHHNE
MIAN!
IT'S
ME!!
MAN!
WA.
TA.
RU
?

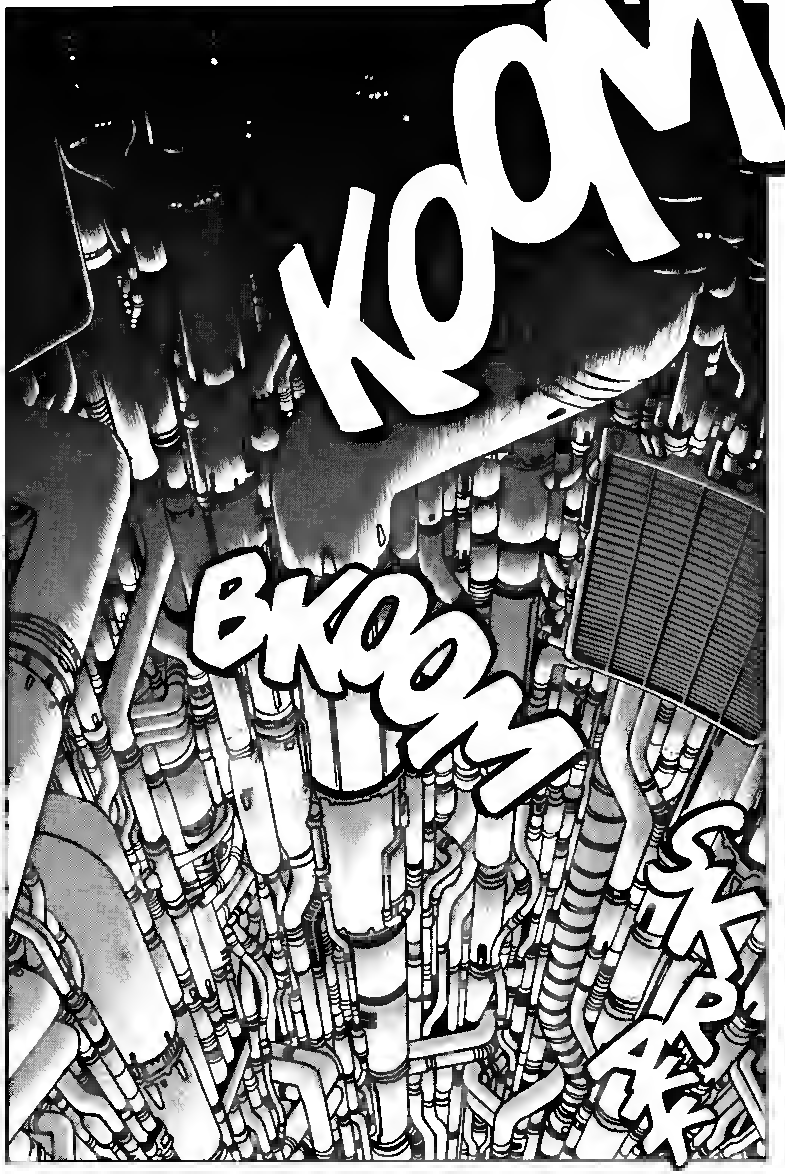

AH ?!
MIAN !!
WHEW...
I'M REALLY NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT RIGHT NOW...
YOU...YOU CRAZY GUY... DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL, MIAN BUT HOLD ON, I'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE
THAT CRYSTAL BALL IN MY BREASTPLATE-- TAKE IT OUT...
QUICKLY !
BUT...BUT WITHOUT THAT YOU REALLY WILL DIE, WON'T YOU ?!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, HONEST WHAT I REALLY NEED IS FOR YOU TO HELP ME DO SOMETHING
HUH ?
I CAN'T DO THAT! FORGET IT!

WATARU, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME
IF I CAN'T STOP SHION, RA WILL SEND A WHOLE BATTLE FLEET. THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED-- THEY'LL BURN YOUR ENTIRE PLANET TO A CINDER
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY KYURAWEIL AND TOPPLE SHION, AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW!
B-BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE IT OUT?
WITHOUT THIS CONTROL DEVICE, THE ENERGY IN THIS WHOLE COMPLEX WILL GO CRITICAL
KYURAWEIL, KEEP, THE EMPRESS, US, WE'LL ALL BE DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION
SHAA
BE BRAVE, WATARU
YOU... YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?
THEN DO THIS FOR LOVE...

VRRNVRRN
AGH!
TOO LATE!
VREEE
WHERE ARE WE?
AHHH... SHE'S LEFT HER SCENT.
SNFF SNFF
HEY, WHAT'S THAT DUMB PAL OF YOURS DOING?
HOLY COW! IT IS WATARU! HEY, GET UP HERE AND HELP US, YOU LAZY SWINE!
AW, FORGET THE DUMB KID. HE'S A LEECH ON YOUR PROFITS.
!!


NOW...!!

KYURAWEIL IS BURNING


KOOM
BKOOM
SKRAK

I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...
BKROOOOM
ZKK
FZZ
WHROOM

AAH!!
WHRAAM

BKOOM
AIIEE!!
KROOM

SHRAK
FWOO
YOUR HIGHNESS! FORGIVE ME!
I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ORD--
SKRAK

BKOOM
!!
AAGH!

WHKOOOM
ZZAK
WHAM

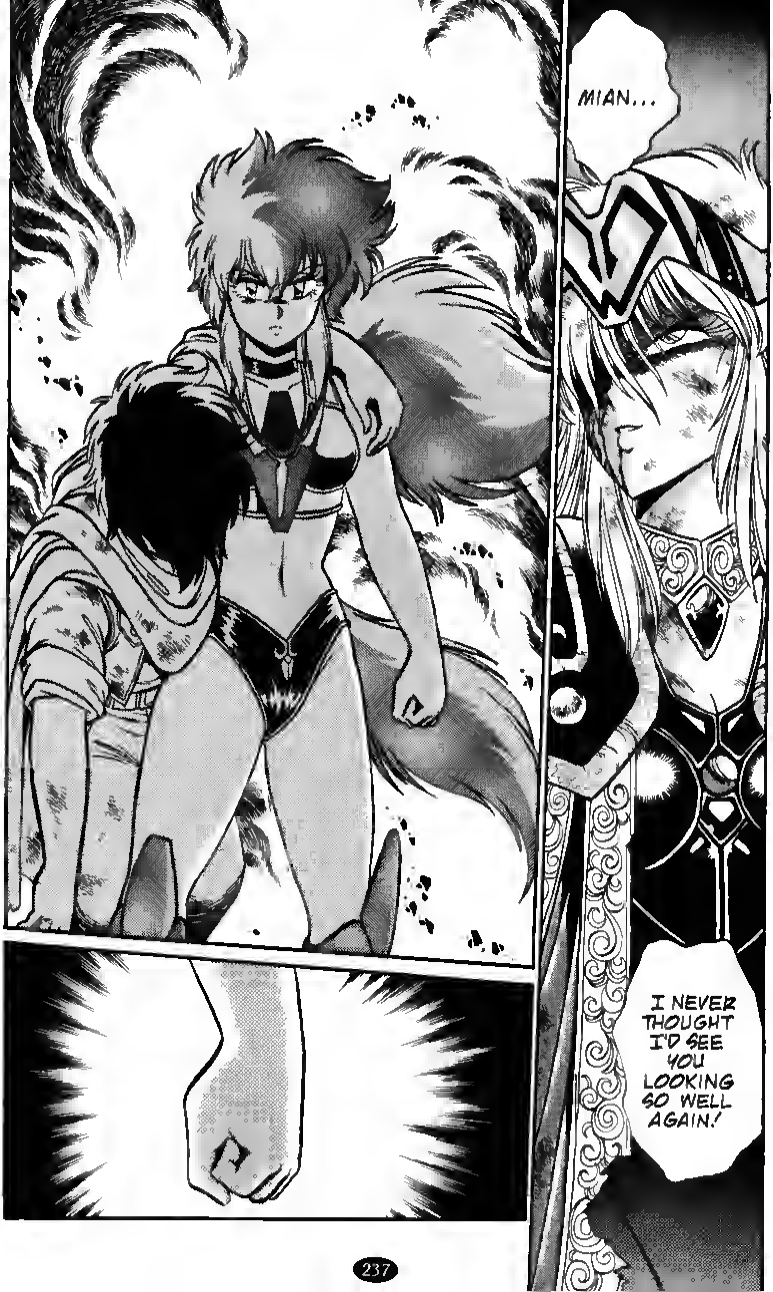
BKROOOMBB

FKRAAAAAAAW

WH...WHAT HAPPENED...?
SHRAK

BKROOOMMBB
HEH HEH...
AHA HA HA HA HAA!

OH, MIAN! HA HA! YOU DID IT, GIRL!
AHH HA HAAA HA HA!
.....
THE EMPRESS... S-SHE'S GONE MAD...
SHION!


MIAN...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU LOOKING SO WELL AGAIN!

YOU CAN THANK WATARU FOR THAT.
I KNEW YOU COULD REPAIR YOURSELF... BUT BOTH ARMS ?!
YOU REALLY WERE BUILT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY ME.
MIAN !
I HATE YOU...
I HATE YOU... FOR INTERFERING WITH MY DREAM...

--EVEN THOUGH IN OUR HEARTS, BOTH OF US JUST WANT OUR FREEDOM FROM THE CREATOR.!
I HATE OUR DESTINY, MIAN! ANDROIDS FORCED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
?
!!
MI... MIAN... WHA--
DIE, MIAN !!
HYAAH!!

HHN...
!!
SKRAK!

EYAAAAAH!

YOU DID IT !!!
YOU DID IT, MIAN!!
YOU TOOK OUT SHION !!
MIAN...?
WATARU...
LOOK WELL... THIS IS THE FATE OF AN ANDROID SLAVE, WATARU.
ONE DEFIES THE MASTER, AND DIES. ANOTHER OBEYS THE MASTER, AND KILLS HER OWN KIND
AND UNTIL NOW... I NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED IT.

SHION WASN'T OUT OF CONTROL.
SHE JUST WANTED TO BE MASTER OF HER OWN DESTINY. THAT'S ALL SHE WANTED.
SHE ONLY DID WHAT ANY OF YOU HUMANS WOULD DO...
AND I HAD TO GO AND KILL HER... MY OWN SISTER.
....
....
MI... AN...
SHION?!

SHION...
MIAN, Y...YOU CAN DO IT, CHILD..
YOU CAN PUT THE CREATOR BEHIND YOU, AND LIVE FREE!
NO...I CAN'T.
I DON'T HAVE YOUR COURAGE, OR YOUR STRENGTH, SHION.
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY BEGUN YOU'RE ALMOST FREE ALREADY. .
I...I AM? BUT HOW..
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ?
EH ?

YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH WATARU, MIAN.
AT FIRST HE WAS JUST A SPECIMEN, A GENE SAMPLE TO SEND BACK TO THE RA IMPERIUM
BUT ON THAT LONG, CRAZY CARAVAN OF YOURS, YOU LEARNED EMOTIONS, THINGS YOU WERE NEVER PROGRAMMED TO FEEL...
AND ME? I NEVER FELT LOVE FOR ANYTHING BLOSSOM IN ME, MIAN...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH THE SAME... ANDROIDS
BY LOVING WATARU YOU'VE ALREADY ESCAPED THE CREATOR, MIAN. YOU'RE FREE!

WHOOOMM

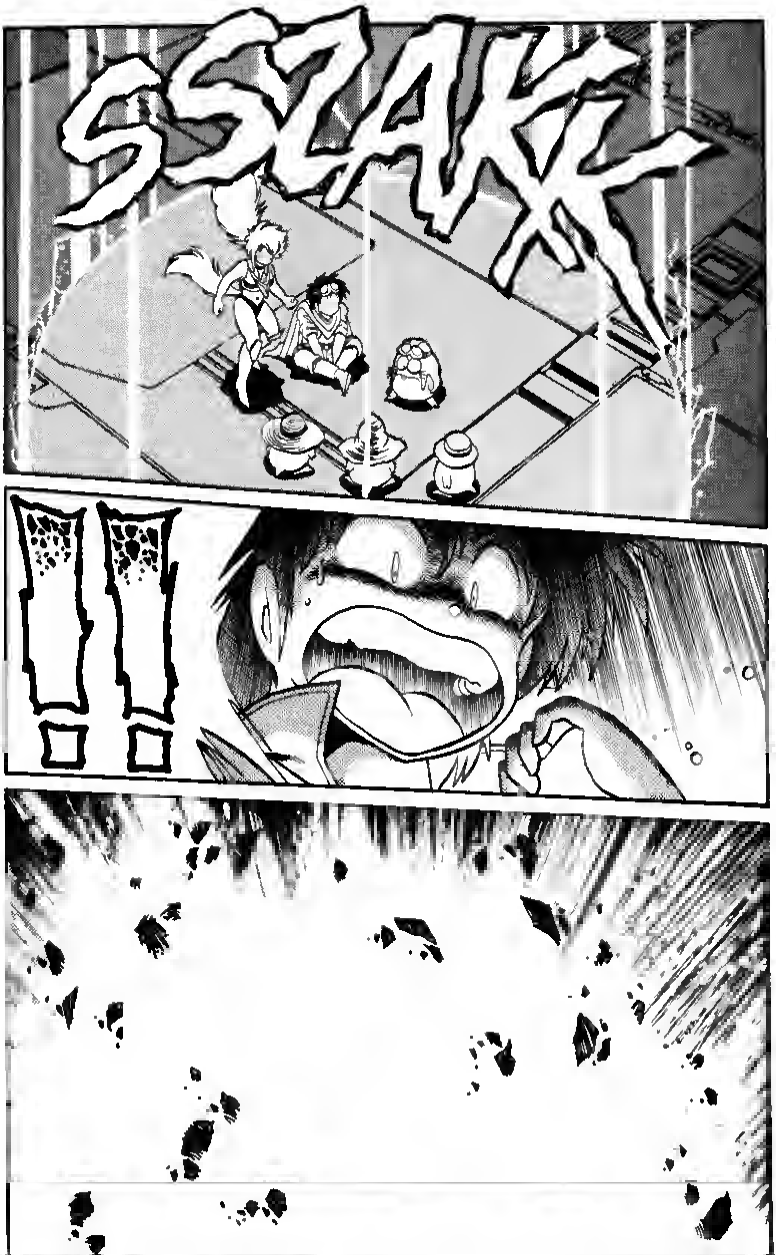
BKROOOMMB
MIAN, THIS PLACE WON'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER
LET'S MAKE TRACKS! FAST!
I CAN'T LEAVE, WATARU.
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CREATOR TO RECOVER ME.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, MIAN! STOP TALKING THAT TRASH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW ANYBODY'S ORDERS! NOT ANYMORE!
WATARU..

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ESCAPE THE CREATOR.
C'MON-- YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU'VE AT LEAST TRIED, RIGHT?!
AND YOU'RE NOT ALONE, MIAN. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
AND EVEN BABO, TOO!
NOW COME ON..LET'S GO TOGETHER!
SHION.... FAREWELL !

HERE--YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE.
GEE, I DON'T KNOW... I FEEL SORTA WEIRD WITHOUT IT..
IT'S JUST A SENSOR PACK-- IT'S BEEN RECORDING YOUR BEHAVIOR AND ALL YOUR MENTAL ACTIVITY
THEY WOULD HAVE USED IT TO PROGRAM NEW IMPERIANS.
YOU MEAN I'D'VE BEEN OUR PLANET'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GALAXY?!
BUT.. WHY ME?

THEY WANTED THE MOST TOTALLY AVERAGE JOE AROUND.
MISTER AVERAGE!!
WHO
AND AS A COMPARISON AGAINST THE AVERAGE, THE MOST AMORAL POSSIBLE SCUM...
YOU MEAN BABO?
THE PROBLEM IS, AFTER COLLECTING THE DATA, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND BOTH OF YOU "ORIGINAL SAMPLES" BACK TO THE EMPIRE...
...FOR PRESERVATION ON THE ZOO PLANET OF DELTA IV.
HEY, I LIKE IT FINE RIGHT HERE!!

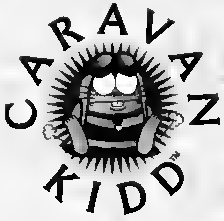
BOING
BUNK!
BABO !?!
OH, HEY-- WATARU. FANCY MEETIN' YOU HERE!
URGH!
DEALS, DEALS, DEALS-- WE'VE BEEN WEARING OUT OUR BUTTS!
WHERE THE BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL!
YOU HAD IT BAD?! AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR THE BOTTOM LINE LATELY? AND IN OUR PEAK SEASON, TOO!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?
URG... AGH...
IT'S THE DREADED RECESSION SCURVY! WE HAVEN'T MADE MONEY IN SO LONG WE'RE GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL!
BRING US BUSINESS OR WE DIE!!


SSZAK!

WHKRO OOOM

WHAT THE HELL ?!
A VOLCANO ?!
WOW-- LOOK AT THAT PILLAR OF FIRE!
IT'S COMING FROM KYURAWEIL KEEP !!
LOOK, DADDY, LOOK! IT'S PRETTY!!
FIREWORKS !!
YAHOO !!
DEADLINE TODAY!
DEADLINE TOMORROW !
I WANT SOME SICK LEAVE---SNIFF

THE PILLAR OF FLAME THAT ROSE ABOVE KYURAWEIL KEEP THAT DAY COULD BE SEEN IN EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND...


CARAVAN
KIDD

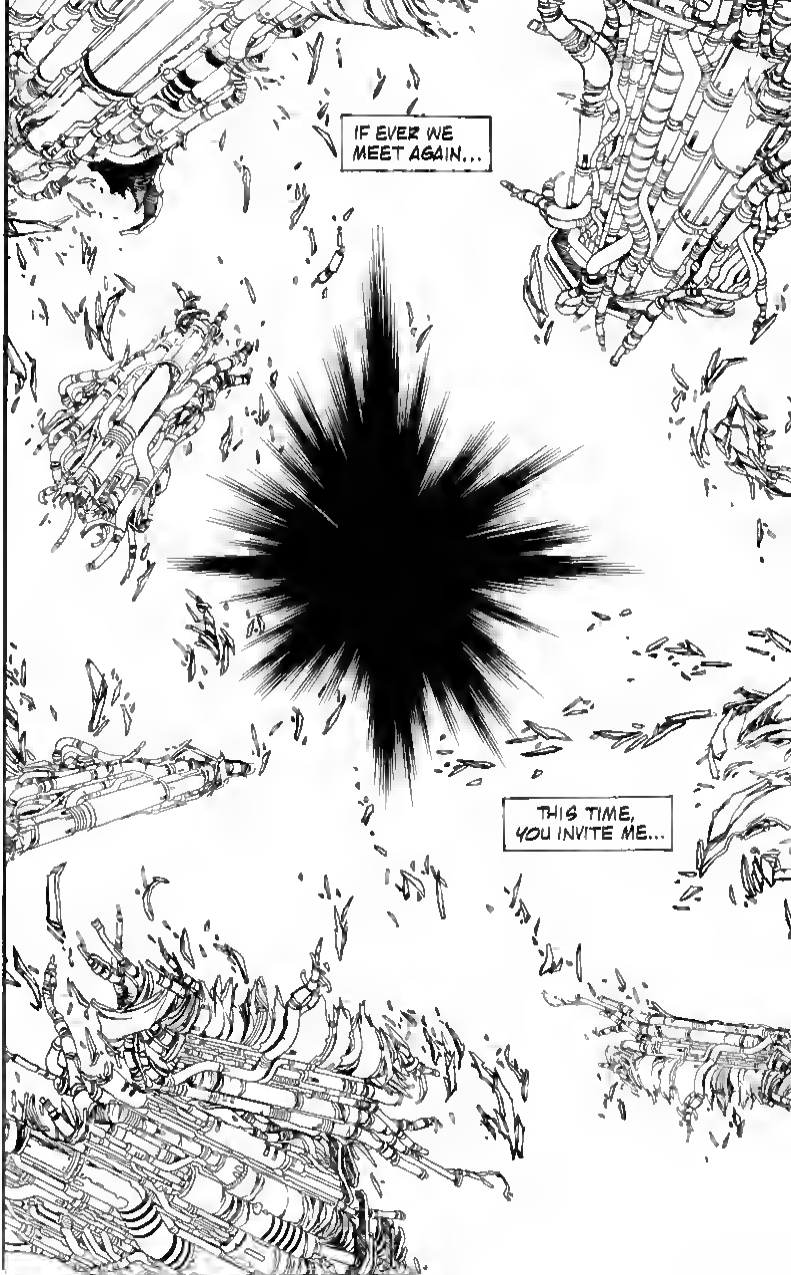
THE ROAD
GOES EVER ON

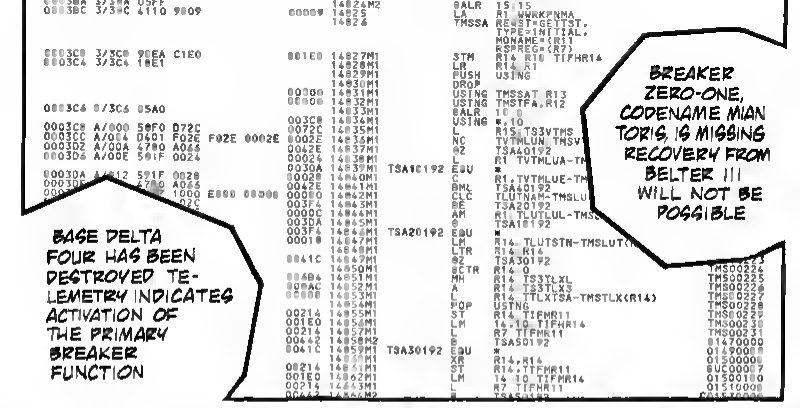
MY... MY GOD...

YOU'RE SAFE AS LONG AS YOU STAY WITH ME.
HUH... ?
I'M USING MY INTERNAL POWER TO BEND THE SPACE AROUND US.
EVEN A BREAKER DOESN'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN HER OWN EXPLOSION.
!
MIAN, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD... ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YEAH, WELL, IT DOES HURT A BIT...
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT. NOT FOR ME, ANYWAY.
WHAT?!

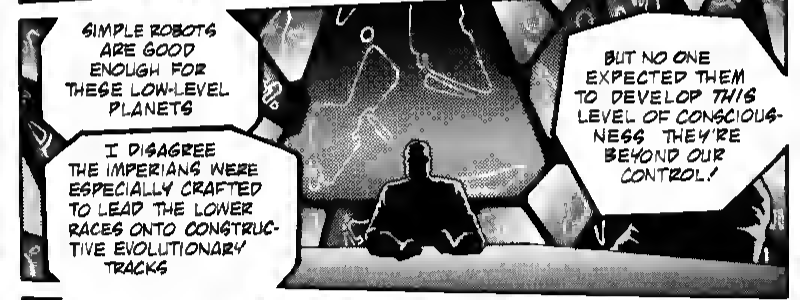
I USED UP MOST OF MY POWER DESTROYING KYURAWEIL KEEP.
IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO GET YOU GUYS OUT OF HERE
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA... DIE?!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, WATARU. WILL MY CIRCUITS JUST SHUT DOWN?
WILL I DISINTEGRATE...? I DON'T KNOW MY OWN FATE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIAN?! YOU PROMISED WE'D GO BACK ON THE ROAD TOGETHER! YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE US ALONG!
WAS THAT ALL A LIE?! WAS IT?!

FORGIVE ME, WATARU, MY LOVE...
WHROOOM

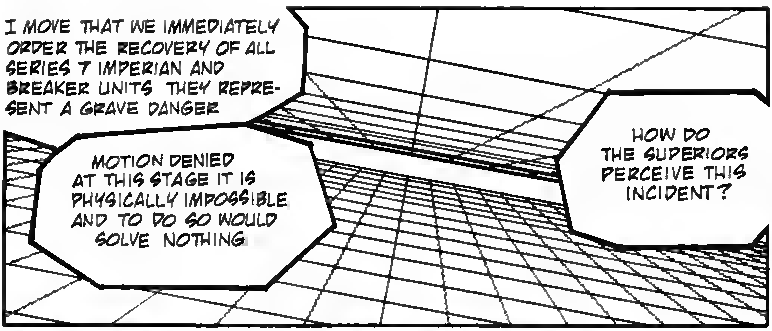

IF EVER WE MEET AGAIN...
THIS TIME, YOU INVITE ME...

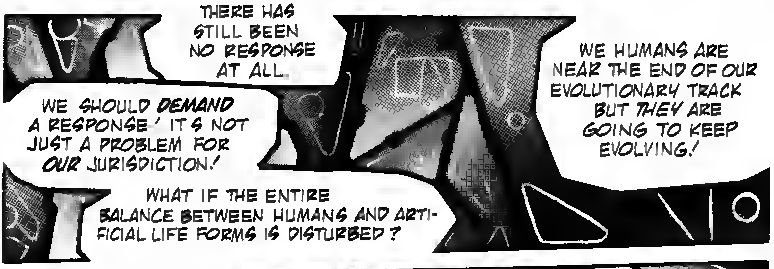

BREAKER ZERO-ONE, CODENAME MIAN TORIS, IS MISSING RECOVERY FROM BELTER III WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE
BASE DELTA FOUR HAS BEEN DESTROYED TELEMETRY INDICATES ACTIVATION OF THE PRIMARY BREAKER FUNCTION

THIS IS THE SEVENTEENTH TIME A BREAKER HAS GONE OPERATIONAL THIS CHRONOSEQUENCE ALONE.
WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BASED THEM ON HUMANS IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT WAS MY ADVICE, YOU RECALL
WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE THERE IS A TERMINAL DESIGN FLAW IN THE SERIES 7 IMPERIAN ANDROID UNITS


SIMPLE ROBOTS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THESE LOW-LEVEL PLANETS
BUT NO ONE EXPECTED THEM TO DEVELOP THIS LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS THEY'RE BEYOND OUR CONTROL!
I DISAGREE THE IMPERIANS WERE ESPECIALLY CRAFTED TO LEAD THE LOWER RACES ONTO CONSTRUCTIVE EVOLUTIONARY TRACKS

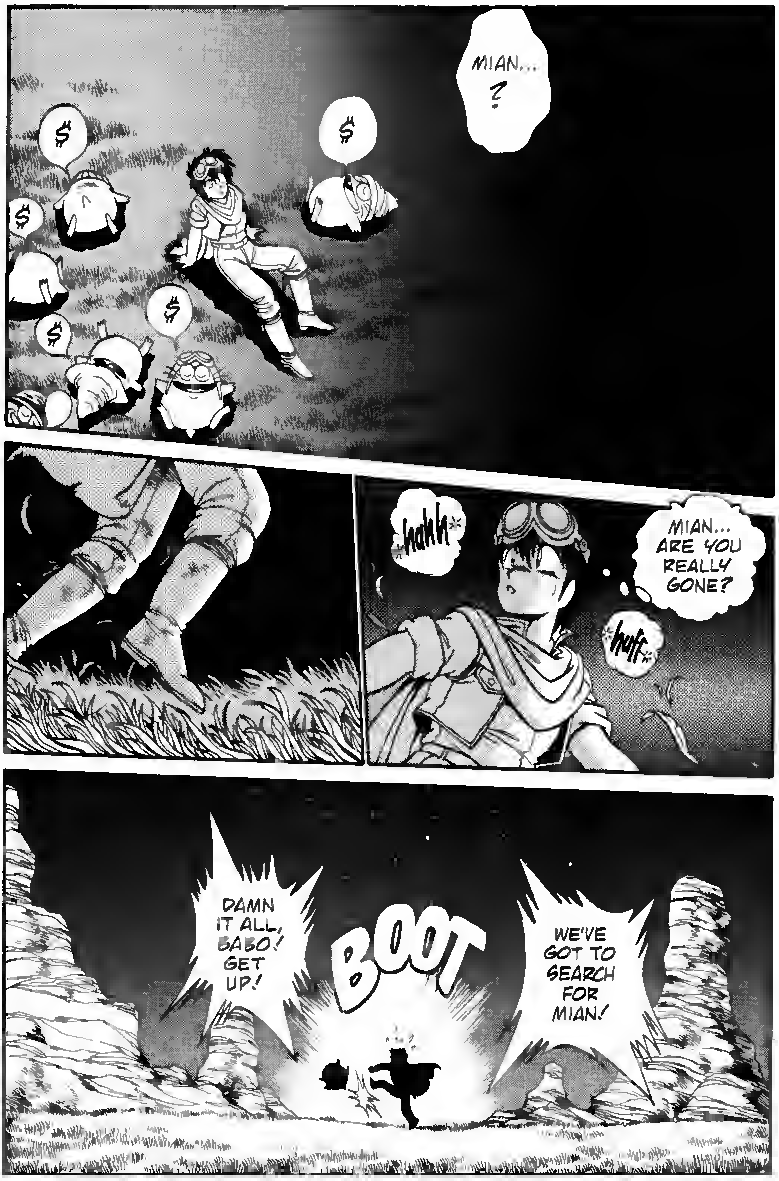
MAY I REMIND THE COUNCIL THAT TELEMETRY ANALYSIS SHOWED ABNORMALITIES IN THE PSYCHOTRONICS OF THE BREAKER UNIT ON DELTA FOUR
YES, TROUBLING INDEED WE DELIBERATELY STRUCTURED THE BREAKER PSYCHOTRONIC SUB-SYSTEM TO PREVENT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT


I MOVE THAT WE IMMEDIATELY ORDER THE RECOVERY OF ALL SERIES 7 IMPERIAN AND BREAKER UNITS THEY REPRESENT A GRAVE DANGER
HOW DO THE SUPERIORS PERCEIVE THIS INCIDENT?
MOTION DENIED AT THIS STAGE IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND TO DO SO WOULD SOLVE NOTHING


THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO RESPONSE AT ALL.
WE HUMANS ARE NEAR THE END OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY TRACK BUT THEY ARE GOING TO KEEP EVOLVING!
WE SHOULD DEMAND A RESPONSE! IT'S NOT JUST A PROBLEM FOR OUR JURISDICTION!
WHAT IF THE ENTIRE BALANCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORMS IS DISTURBED?

I AGREE WE NEED A QUICK ANSWER.
IN TIME THIS PROBLEM COULD SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR EMPIRE.

MMPH...


MIAN...?
$
$
$
$
$
hahh
MIAN... ARE YOU REALLY GONE?
huff
DAMN IT ALL, BABO! GET UP!
BOOT
WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR MIAN!

BEAUTIFUL EKODA GARBAGE DUMP OF THE NORTHERN PERIPHERY

OUT LANDERS

TWO PITCHERS, COMIN' RIGHT UP!!

IS DD, GUYS.
WHERE'S MUH DAMN GRUB!!
SORRY, SORRY! IT'S COMING!
HEY, YOU OVERPAID SLUG!
WHAT NOW, SIR...?
HAUL THIS TRASH OUT TO THE ALLEY, BOY.
THEN START ON THOSE DISHES!
I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR... JUST A SHORT BREAK!
QUIT YER WHININ'-- YOU WANT THIS JOB OR NOT?
GEEZ.. WHAT A GODDAMN SLAVE-DRIVER!
AHH, WATARU...
BABO!

OH, GREAT STILL GOT THAT BAG OF CRAP, I SEE
ZIP IT, SONNY! MAYBE I'M LITTLE RUSTY, BUT I'LL GET THE OL' MAGIC BACK AGAIN!
"ZIP IT, SONNY"—? I'M WORKING MY BUTT OFF TO COVER YOUR STINKIN' DEBTS!
NOW, NOW, KEEP THE FAITH, MY LAD! ONE GOOD SCAM AND IT'S DDs FOR US!
GGRMBBLE
OH, WATARU, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL...I'M SO HUNGRY I'M GONNA DIE
FEED ME, FEED ME!
THE HELL I WILL, YOU LUMP! YOU THINK MONEY GROWS ON TREES?!
GO PICK THROUGH THE GARBAGE IF YOU'RE SO HUNGRY!
EASY TO SAY, OLD BOY, BUT YOU ALREADY GOT ALL THE GOOD STUFF.
ARGG! I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE ANYMORE!
?!
SPASSH
AIEE!
WHAM

WHAT TH-?
FIGHT!
FIGHT!
FINALLY! HEY, SODD ON THE REDHEAD!
OH, NO!
KRAK
WHUD
COME ON, FIGHT, YOU FAT GLOB!!
ALL RIGHT! CLOBBER 'IM!
BOSS! THEY'RE FIGHTING!
I GOT EYES, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD!
SOME SCUMBALL HITS ON THIS BABE AND SHE LOSES IT. WOMEN, I TELL YA..
A BABE?
WHA-?!

IT'S MIAN! MY GOD, IT'S MIAN!!
MIII-AAN!!!
WAA!!

FRANK
GURMPH!
H-HI, MIAN...
YOU'RE ALIVE! THANK THE CREATOR YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MIAN! THIS IS GREAT! YAHOO!!

JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
HUH?
YOU GOT THE WRONG MIAN, KIDDO!
NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
EH...?
B-BUT...
WHAT THE-- ARE YOU SLEEPWALKING OR SOMETHING?! IT'S ME! ME! WATARU!
HEY, SO MANY DUMB-LOOKIN' GEEKS HIT ON ME I CAN'T KEEP THEM ALL STRAIGHT
THERE SHE IS!
HEH.
BITCH! YOU ROUGH UP ONE OF MY BOYS, YOU GOTTA PAY!
PREPARE TO DIE!

WHOK
MIAN...
WHAM
KRAK.
OOMPH!

NOW YOU GOT ME MAD!
TAKE THIS!
AIEEE!!
YA FILTHY SLUT!
WHUD

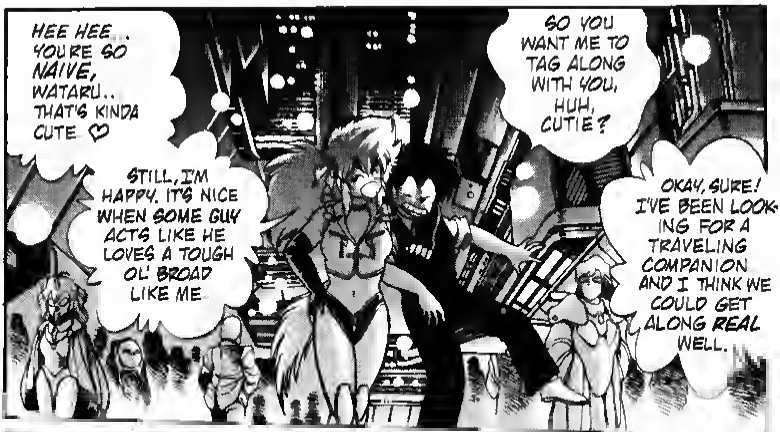
....
DUH...
UH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT, BOSS... SORRY, HONEST!
PEACE, OK?
YOU BONEHEAD !!
KRAK
TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!
WHOK
KLOD
OH, YEAH?! AND WHO GOT WHIPPED BY A DUMB ROAD, HUH?!
HEH, HEH!
WAY TO GO!!
YAHOO!
FIRES AND FIGHTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF EKODA! BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THEM, BOYS!

YAHOO!
KILL!
WEOOO
WEOOO

NOBODY MOVE!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST! DISORDERLY CONDUCT, ORDINANCE TWO!
HEY! WAIT!
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY UNTIL I GET TO BEAT YOU UP!
HURRY UP AND MAKE TRACKS! THEY'LL THROW YOU IN THE CLINK!
HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!
IF THIS GETS ANY WORSE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF TOWN!
WAIT A MINUTE!
I SAID WAIT, DAMMIT!

HEY, HANDS OFF, BUDDY! YOU PLANNING TO GROPE ME ALL NIGHT LONG OR SOMETHING?!
SHEESH... WHATCHA BLUSHING FOR, KID?
N-NOTHING.
Y'KNOW... MAYBE I DID MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
TOLD YOU SO!
YEAH,... SOME-HOW I FEEL.
YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S WATARU?
YOU GOT IT!
HMPH WATARU, HUH...?

WATARU... WATA-RU..
DAMN! CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER!
HEY, IT'S OKAY...
'CAUSE I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME! I STILL WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME!
GO WITH YOU?
WHERE? WHAT ON EARTH FOR?
I...I LOVE YOU, MIAN!!
YOU... LOVE ME?
YES!
LORDY, WHAT A LINE "DIDN'T I MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE"...! OH, FOR SURE!
YOU'RE JUST ANGLIN' FOR A DATE, RIGHT?
WRONG!!


HEE HEE.. YOU'RE SO NAIVE, WATARU.. THAT'S KINDA CUTE. ♡
SO YOU WANT ME TO TAG ALONG WITH YOU, HUH, CUTIE?
STILL, I'M HAPPY. IT'S NICE WHEN SOME GUY ACTS LIKE HE LOVES A TOUGH OL' BROAD LIKE ME
OKAY, SURE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A TRAVELING COMPANION AND I THINK WE COULD GET ALONG REAL WELL.

ALL RIGHT! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE...
YO, WATARU! OLD PARDNER! CHECK OUT THE DUMPSTER BEHIND THAT RESTAURANT OVER--

GREAT SNAPPIN' ARSEHOLES!! IS THAT MIAN?!!
GEE, I GUESS I'M KINDA FAMOUS, HUH?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO, BOY?! YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO RUN OFF WITH THAT CRAZY BROAD AGAIN?!
YEAH, SO? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?! WE WOULDN'T BE PETS THIS TIME!

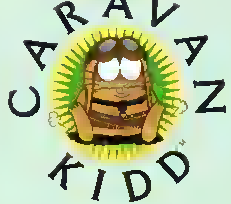
'SCUSE ME, BUT IS THAT... THING... A FRIEND OF YOURS?
UH, YEAH! THAT'S BABO! HE'S A GREAT GUY! REALLY!
JUST COOL IT, BABO! WITH MIAN ALONG WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DEBT COLLECTORS, RIGHT?
...!
MIAN, BABY! SWEETY PIE! HONEY BUNS!!
GLOMP
KAWHOK
CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?!
SH-SHE STILL CAN'T TAKE A JOKE.
HEY, GET SOME CASH IN MY WALLET, I CAN HANDLE BABES LIKE HER, NO PROB!
NOT MIAN, YOU CAN'T
OH, HO! YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE OF YOURSELF...
STUFF A SOCK IN IT, YOU SACK OF--

WHOA THERE, WATARU! DID SOMETHING SORTA HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND MIAN?!
I SAID SHUT UP! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
HEY, LOVER BOY'S GONE ALL RED!
OOO-WEE!
I SAID SHUT UP!!
HEY, WATARU-- STOP FIGHTING WITH THE BLOB AND LET'S GO GET SMASHED TOMORROW WE'RE HITTIN' THE ROAD!

THE END OF CARAVAN KIDD

CARAVAN
KIDD

キャラバン・キッド



With the forces of rebellion crushed by the might of the Helgebard Empire, the beautiful — and volatile! — warrior android Mian Toris is the last remaining hope for freedom — providing she can keep her conscripted companions Wataru and Babo in line! One step ahead of Helgebard forces who'll stop at nothing to destroy her, Mian races to Kyurawell Keep to confront her arch-nemesis, Empress Shion. If Mian prevails, the Empire will be brought to its knees, but the homeworld of Wataru — who just happens to be in love with Mian — will then be laid waste by an even greater stellar menace! Will Mian survive her face-to-face struggle with the nearly all-powerful Shion? Will Wataru lose his best girl — or his favorite planet? Will Babo figure a way to profit from this mess? All will be revealed in the conclusion to Johji Manabe's epic **Caravan Kidd**

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